Historical Commission, SBC Nashville, Tennessee

The Baptist Recurd

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 27, 1991

Published Since 1877

'Crossover Japan' nets 345 professions of faith

By Michael Chute

TOKYO (BP) — A "Crossover Japan" evangelistic thrust led 345 people to faith in Jesus Christ, reported leaders of 42 Southern Baptist volunteer teams from the United States that worked in the partnership

One of the largest evangelistic crusades ever planned by Japanese Baptists, the May 20-June 3 effort involved 139 Southern Baptists from 20 states who worked in 41 Japanese churches and mission congregations. It grew out of Japanese Baptists' goal to increase their churches from 238 to 500 and membership from 28,000 to

50,000 in the next 10 years.

The Japan Baptist Convention matched up the volunteer teams with churches. The two team members from Mississippi were Brian Cunningham of Oxford and Rothell Wasson

of Sledge.

"'Crossover Japan' exceeded any expectations we had," said missionary Bill Walker, who helped mission volunteer Dub Jackson coordinate the crusade.

The first in a series of annual "Cross Overseas" crusades sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board, the project involved pastors and lay people from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. The annual partnerships will parallel the "Cross Over America" campaigns, coordinated by the Home Mission Board. Both emphases came from suggestions made by SBC President Morris Chapman.

In "Crossover Japan," each part-nership team included a preacher and two or three lay people, such as secretaries, seminary students, businessmen, and retirees. Several former missionaries to Japan returned as team members.

Three former missionaries reported at least 30 people accepted Christ in their assigned churches during the week, Walker said. Returning missionaries said they "sensed a real change in Japan, a new openness to the gospel, a new warmth in the churches," he said.

More teams went to new church planting situations than is usually the

case because 33 missionaries in Japan directly are involved in church starts. About one-fourth of the teams were involved in new church situations.

Jackson, a former Japan missionary who spent the past year in the country planning "Crossover Japan," invited the Ohman Brass, a six-trumpet ensemble. It traveled to 10 churches in the Tokyo area, appeared on Japanese television, and gave con-certs at a school for the blind and several high schools.

A team of volunteers reaching out to the deaf - a first for Japan partnerships — worked in five churches. The team, from the 150-member deaf congregation of Applewood Church in the Denver area, included two deaf members, Audrey Warden, and Robert Payne. Missionary Nan Jordan and Payne's hearing son, Mike,

helped interpret for the pair.
"When we had to interpret it was in four different languages: from American sign language to English to Japanese to Japanese sign language," said Robert Payne, who has been deaf

since birth. "The Holy Spirit blessed us and worked through us as we did

Payne said he thought Japan had only about 25,000 deaf people, but he discovered during his stay 3.4 million Japanese are deaf. Japanese Baptists have no deaf churches and only one church, located in Kyoto, has deaf members who attend regularly. Churches with deaf members often don't have people to interpret for them, Jordan explained.

"(The deaf) need Jesus Christ," Payne told participants at a celebration banquet closing the crusade. "Yet, Nan Jordan is the only (missionary) who can speak Japanese sign language, the only one who can interpret and work with the deaf here in Japan. Pray for her that she won't

"The power of God working through 'Crossover Japan' was a testimony to the prayers people have been praying in the States and in Japan for a long time," said Walker. "Some very miraculous types of things happened.

In an early-morning prayer meeting at Utunomiya Baptist Church, volunteer Everett Ingram from Fort Worth, Texas, had just finished sharing the Scripture: "Cast all your cares upon the Lord because he cares for you." Suddenly one of the men in the meeting suffered a heart

"That stopped the meeting," Ingram recalled. "Everyone rallied around the man and we began to pray. The pastor and I laid hands on him until the ambulance took him to the hospital. But just two hours later they released him from the hospital. God answered that prayer in a miraculous way."

Volunteer Rothell Wasson of Sledge, related a visit to a 70-year-old man who had been vice president of one of the largest soft drink companies in Japan but now lay paralyzed by a stroke. The man's wife, a Christian, didn't want him to become a Christian; if he did, their son would leave home. She is in her mid-60s and can-

not care for her husband by herself. "We just prayed while the wife was still talking and God got her to quiet down a little bit," Wasson remembered. "The man prayed to receive Christ and when he opened his eyes, he was weeping. That really struck our interpreter and he started weeping. The wife started weeping. And I started weeping.

"The Holy Spirit came down on us to the point that our interpreter confirmed to his heart that he was called to be a preacher. He surrendered right there to full-time ministry to

proclaim the gospel."

Speaking at the closing banquet, a former president of the Japan Baptist Convention thanked the American group for their work. Okamura Shouji, pastor of Simura Baptist Church, said six people made spiritual decisions in his church during the weeklong crusade — the same number usually baptized in his church in a whole year.

"Japanese pastors say churches hit barrier and partnerships like this help to kick-start them and fire them through that wall," said Walker. "It has something to do with the weight of being in Japan (where many peo-ple resist the gospel). It stagnates people, pulling everybody down to the norm. To have an outside charge like

this gets us going again." Chute writes for FMB.



RAIN OR SHINE - Rain didn't stop volunteer Andrew Wade from distributing handbills at a Japanese train station announcing evangelistic meetings at a local Baptist church. Wade. a student at Southeastern Seminary, participated in "Crossover Japan," an evangelistic thrust that led 345 Japanese to faith in Jesus Christ. The May 20-June 3 effort involved 139

Southern Baptists from 20 states who worked in 41 Japanese churches and mission congregations. It was the first in a series of annual "Cross Overseas" crusades sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board that will parallel the "Cross Over America" campaigns coordinated by the Home Mission Board. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

How do I become a Christian?

Have you ever wondered what you must do to become a Christian or what you must do to be saved? The Bible has an answer that is easy

FIRST, you must understand you need to be saved. The Bible says you need to be saved because you are a sinner. Your sin has a penalty. You cannot save yourself. The Bible says, "all have sinned," and "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).

SECOND, you must understand you can be saved. You can be saved because Christ died on the cross for your sins. The Bible says "God demonstrated his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

THIRD, you must understand what you need to do to be saved. The Bible says how you can be saved. Acts 3:19 says we must repent and turn away from our sins. But repentance alone is not enough. Ephesians 2:8 says that we must place our faith in Jesus Christ to be saved.

NOW, you must act if you want to be saved. God is waiting for you to "want to" and to ask him to save you. The Bible says, "Whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13). If you are ready to trust Christ as your Savior and Lord, invite Christ into your heart right now by praying to him. You may word your own prayer or use the prayer printed here. The important thing is that the prayer is sincere and personal.

'Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I know you died for my sins. Right now I invite you into my heart to be my Savior and Lord. I willingly turn from my sin and give my life to you. Thank you for sav-

Welcome to God's family. You have just made the greatest decision of your life. Tell a pastor or another Christian friend about your decision as soon as possible.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Shout, shout the sound

1909 and cost \$350,000 sawmill dollars. It is still a beautiful building with two balconies. The stairs creak, seemingly to the tune of "I Love Thy Church, O God," and the window facings are heart pine with the resin seeping through the six coats of varnish. The floor is made of $1 \times 4s$ with the carpet

being added years later.

The chandelier was made in Czechoslovakia in 1926 and the first owner paid 26,000 dollars for the 2,000 pounds of copper, hand-cut crystal, and solid brass. The church obtained it much later for 1,500 dollars and spent the next few months assuring the members they could safely sit in

their regular pews.

The stained glass windows are priceless and enhance the worship for the believers. In a small front room is the "library," or in this case, the museum, and this alone is worth your visit. Pictures of all 15 pastors are on the wall. Banners, pulpit Bibles, and home to become a monument to the

The old church was constructed in dozens of artifacts are displayed and wear well with the architecture of the building

Len G. Broughton, a medical doctor, was the early pastor and many preachers have studied his sermons. In 1942 Paul S. James became the pastor and would serve for the next 15 years. Downtown Atlanta was in a building frenzy by then, and the residential area became a concrete jungle of office buildings. Soon few people lived near the old Baptist Tabernacle and it became a haven of service to those who passed by the

Last week the old Tabernacle stepped back in time as it was packed out for the Conference of Evangelists. The rafters shook, the windows rattled, and the spirit of revival flowed anew through the sacred walls. Strong men wept, laughed, and rejoiced over the conversion of Walter Ayers as he came from a broken non-Christian

grace of God. Later, he would see both parents saved in meetings he conducted. As a young man, he met a pretty girl who was a Christian. He told her, "I like you, you like me, but you are going to have to choose be-tween me and the church." She said, "Goodbye." Ayers changed his mind and began attending church and was later converted, and married the girl.

It was an appropriate place for W. A. Criswell's 64-year ministry to be relived in his message on the "Old Time Religion."

Now, I know buildings have neither soul nor spirit, but there for a time the old Tabernacle came alive. Luke Garrett, introduced as being from Jackson, Mississippi, sang, "Then Came the Morning," and I thought the stones would cry out. The songs of Tione and the County out. Zion and the Gospel reverberated in every corner of the building. Paul James and Len Broughton were smiling when I passed by the museum.

'Righteousness exalts a nation'

Masada shall not fall again

I've seen the trenches of Vicksburg and Shiloh, gazed at the Punchbowl, and read the grave markers in Manila. Few can move you like

Masada is a table-top mountain by the Dead Sea. The Roman empire took seven years to subdue the little strip of land that forms the bridge between Asia and Africa. If you visit Israel, Masada is a must. The seven year struggle ended here where 960 Jews committed suicide rather than surrender.

Today's Israeli military students swear that "Masada shall not fall again" prior to graduation. Masada lies at the bottom of the world, hun-dreds of feet below see level. The first dreds of feet below sea level. The fire and brimstone of Sodom must have spilled over. Desolate, barren, and haunting, where the mountains rise up in such torturous shapes, making the weird land of the Nege v.

Herod built Masada into a fortress with a summer palace, huge storehouses, and cisterns of water unique to engineers. An 18 foot wall with 38 towers graced the top. Flavius Silva and his 10,000 Roman legionnaires, carrying tons of siege equipment, took almost a year to capture it. The Roman remains can still be seen at the base of Masada and a massive earthen ramp up the western slope is still there. On April 15 in 73 A.D. (the editors were there April 20, 1,918 years later), the Romans conquered Masada to discover only the bodies of the defenders.

The Judean desert has jealously guarded the area and protected the mains of the ancient fortress. Changes have been exceedingly slow. "His blood be upon us" had come sooner than expected, and the brave resistance of a nation was no more. Evidence of divine wrath has marked the landscape forever.

You get a strange feeling on Masada. You are in a hurry to leave, but you want to stay. Shadows and rock formations paint a scene of forlornness that defies explanation. How could anyone survive there, much less fight siege warfare for a year? Assuredly, it's a monument to

brave people Our guide, Mike Rogoff, with a doctoral degree in history, explained all the historical tidbits. Actually, two women and five children survived the suicide pact. Northward is the village of En-gedi, and the wilderness where David hid from Saul. Even further north are the caves of Qumran where a goat keeper discovered the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Time is rolled back and the spirit of Masada crowds your mind. The Ju-dean hills envelope you, and history pours forth like precious water from

the canteen. Once described as a "vast funeral pall let down from heaven," implying the Dead Sea had convinced all other living creatures and plants to die. An expedition under the leadership of Captain Lynch in 1842 visited Masada and the captain wrote in glowing terms, causing William Thompson (The Land and the Book) to record of Masada, "All who have visited this terrific crag and strange castle seem to have been smitten with the spirit of exaggeration." Objectively speaking, I wanted to contribute to that legend.

Jerusalem will inspire you, Galilee is a thrill an hour, but Masada is just there, light but creating dark shadows, forbidden but you can ride a cable car to the top in a few minutes, lonely but bringing you in touch with 3,000 years in history. You visit the Holy Land, you think of Masada. GH



Masada

Christian Citizenship Sunday Righteousness exalteth a nation'

(Proverbs 14:34)

Events of the 1980s made us conscious of great differences between the nations of our world. All countries aspire to greatness, recognition, and longevity. But much uncertainty exists as to the means to accomplish

those goals.

The Bible gives us more than a clue to the greatness of a nation. God's Word offers us this prescription: "Righteousness exalteth a nation" (Prov. 14:34).

This prescription is for the United States, Communist countries, the nations of South America and Africa. It is a prescription for all times and for all periods of world history.

The prescription was given to a nation chosen of God to be his instrument among the nations of the earth. The people of that nation thought themselves to be the most righteous nation in the world. But that nation fell, and prophets denounced its religiosity and piety as false and

Righteousness builds up a nation and its people. Actions, not words, tell the character of a people and show forth commitments and values.

nteousness is a carefully chosen word. It fulfills demands of relationships, both with God and with humans. These relationships create demands. When the demands of these relationships are tulfilled, then individuals and peoples live righteously.

Righteousness is a word related to, and often translated as, justice. Amos spoke of justice and righteousness in the same breath as though they were almost one (Amos 5:24).

What does the righteous person do? Such a person cares for the poor (Job 29:12-15) and is a source of rejoicing (Prov. 29:2). A righteous person lives with integrity among neighbors (Job

How does righteousness affect a nation, a people? Justice, mercy, and peace are found throughout. Relation-ships are honored. Justice is practiced. Mercy abounds. The psalmist says, "... righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Psalm 85:10).

Nations have risen and fallen throughout history. Economic and military power are causes analyzed by historians. But to the eyes of faith, the character and strength of a nation are found in its righteousness. Righteousness is more than words. It involves, both personally and collectively, actions and character. Where justice is ignored, where peace is neglected, where mercy is trampled underfoot, the nation groans. Where justice, peace, and mercy are practiced, the nation rejoices.

This theme interpretation was produced by the staff of the Christian Life Commission, SBC.

The Baptist Record

NUMBER 21 (ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD,
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to
The Editor, Baptist Record
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

The Second Front Page

The Second Front Page Baylor dispute appears headed for showdown Baylor dispute appears headed for showdown

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Published Since 1877

Draper nominated as eighth SSB president

NASHVILLE (BP) — James T. Draper Jr. will be nominated to become the eighth president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School

A special meeting of the 93-member board of trustees will be called for 1 p.m. Thursday, July 18, in Nashville to consider the nomination of Draper, 55, pastor of First Church of Euless. Texas, and 1982-84 president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The meeting will continue Friday morning, July 19, if needed.

Wayne Dubose, chairman of the search committee and pastor of Summer Grove Church, Shrayaport, La

mer Grove Church, Shreveport, La., said Draper was the unanimous

choice of the 10-member committee. If elected, Draper will succeed Lloyd Elder, who has been president since 1984 and who reached agreement with trustees Jan. 17 to retire by Jan. 31, 1992, or 30 days after election of a successor. The agreement was reached after a lengthy dispute between Elder and trustees about Elder's leadership at the board.

The search committee was formed Feb. 4 during a regularly scheduled trustee meeting.

Dubose said June 21 the search committee received nominations from about 70 Southern Baptists. They also received other kinds of suggestions from many, including about 170 employees of the board.

In late April, Dubose said the committee conducted a telephone poll of a cross-section of about 100 Southern

or eight persons most recommended to the committee and asked them to give their first, second, and third choices among these eight. It was significant to our committee that our nominee was the one most desired for

"Jimmy Draper is well thought of by Southern Baptists across this land and is recognized as a person of integrity. Dr. Draper possesses many outstanding qualities that will enable him to give us dynamic leadership as we enter the 21st century," he added. He said he believes the 100-year-old

church programs and publishing institution with more than 1,800 employees and 17 SBC-assigned programs of work can meet the needs of churches aligned with both sides in the denominational controversy.

"If we stay true to giving adequate exposition of the word of God, I think we will meet the needs of all factions (in the denomination). If we stay true to the assignment of the board to produce the best possible teaching material, I think that will meet the needs of the churches," said Draper.

If elected, Draper, who has been characterized as a reconciler, said he would like to be a unifying force in the denomination

"I like to think I can help people find common ground and do it without compromise of anyone's convictions. We can find ways to work together, to magnify things to keep us together," he added.

aptists.

A Texas native, he is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and

holds the B.D. and M.Div. degrees from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he currently serves as chairman of the board of trustees. He holds honorary doctorates from three Baptist schools.

He has held numerous leadership posts at association, state, and SBC levels, and has written 17 books.

If elected, Draper is expected to assume presidency of the board in about 30 days. Elder's retirement agreement specifies that he would be available to serve as a consultant/adviser to the new president until April

In addition to Dubose and Anderson, the search committee included: Bobby Welch, vice chairman, pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Mark Brooks, pastor of Elmdale Church, Springdale, Ark.; Kirk Hum-phreys, businessman from Oklahoma City, Okla.; Frank Palmer, pastor of Forest Avenue Church in Redmond, Ore.; Iris White, businesswoman from Columbia, Md.; Bill Wilson, director of the convention ministries division of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; Gene Mims, vice chairman of trustees and pastor of First Church, Cleveland, Tenn.; and SBC President Morris Chapman.

Chief executives of the board during its first century of service were: J.M. Frost (1891-93, 1896-1916), T.P. Bell (1893-96), I.J. Van Ness (1916-35), T.L. Holcomb (1935-53), James L. Sullivan (1953-75), Grady C. Cothen (1975-84),

Lawson writes for BSSB.

DALLAS (ABP) - Texas Baptists may be moot, however. Only two hours and Baylor University appear headed for a showdown this fall over control of the Waco, Texas, school.

The Texas Baptist Executive Board last week approved the recommendation of a special study committee asking for more state convention participation in the election of Baylor's governing body and more assurance the school will remain a Christianoriented institution. But the committee's proposal was rejected im-mediately by the university's president.

The 193-member Executive Board voted 83-36 to recommend convention approval of the proposal after lengthy debate and after attempts to alter it

Approval of the recommendation

after adjournment of the Executive Board, Baylor President Herbert Reynolds issued a statement saying the recommendation was "unacceptable" and Baylor would pursue its own proposal.

Paul Powell of Dallas, chairman of the Baylor regents, told the Baptist Standard of Texas that the regents would not ignore "an official communication from the Executive Board" but that he is confident the regents will affirm their action of May 3 when they rejected virtually the same plan offered by the special committee. The regents meet in Waco Ju-

Druin is associate pastor, Texas Baptist Standard.

Elder cites flexibility in accepting college post

By Linda Lawson and Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Citing his need to seek "God's will for my life during this part of the journey," Lloyd Elder said teaching and counseling college students, with flexibility for an "at-large ministry" drew him to accept a faculty position at Belmont College in Nashville.

Belmont College President William Troutt announced June 11 that trustees of the Tennessee Baptist school had affirmed his recommendation that Elder, president of the Sunday School Board, assume the H. Franklin Paschall Chair of Biblical Studies and Preaching by Jan. 31,

In a June 11 prepared statement and in a letter to trustees of the Sunday School Board, Elder said he will begin his new faculty role after his retirement as president. The retire-

ment agreement with the trustees allows him to pursue other activities during the time he serves as consultant.

Although Elder said he has chosen to begin this faculty appointment without salary," the college will provide an office and support staff from endowed funds. Under terms of his retirement agreement at the Sunday School Board, Elder will continue as a board employee until April 1, 1993.

Elder holds a doctorate in New Testament with studies in preaching, evangelism, theology, and Old Testa-ment from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Lawson writes for BSSB and Hollinger is director, Baptist Press. Also contributing to this story is Joan Yarborough of Belmont College.



Kellys home from Philippines

Earl Kelly, former executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, says goodbye to a Filipino friend. Her father is a Baptist pastor in Manila. Kelly and his wife returned to Jackson recently after completing an 18 month assignment with the Foreign Mission Board in South Asia, primarily the Philippines.

FMB elects directors for Brazil-Caribbean, Africa

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) - Two new area directors for mission work in Brazil and the Caribbean and in west Africa were elected June 19 by trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The trustees named Ron Wilson area director for the work of nearly 500 missionaries in Brazil and the

west Africa.

Wilson, 43, from Lancaster, S.C., has been the board's associate to the area director for mission work in the northwest Caribbean since 1986. Based in Puerto Rico, he has worked with missionaries in the Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and at the Caribbean. Bill Phillips was elected to Caribbean Baptist Communications oversee almost 450 missionaries in Center in Hollywood, Fla. He also has

worked with the national Baptist bodies of those countries and western Cuba, Jamaica, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Phillips, who has worked for 13 years as a missionary in Africa, succeeds Bill Bullington as area director for west Africa. Bullington left the position at the beginning of 1991 to become vice president for Africa.

As area director, Phillips, 47, will work with missionaries in 17 countries from a base in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. He will begin work Aug. 1.

Tom Warrington will be the Richmond-based associate director for missions in 15 nations of Europe. Warrington, 46, of Jackson, has been a missionary candidate consultant in the board's mission personnel office since 1986. He assumes his new duties June 26. He and his wife, Sandy, were missionaries to Costa Rica from 1976-82. He was an associate pastor in churches in Mississippi and Louisiana before missionary appointment and a pastoral counselor from 1982-86.

INDEPENDENCE DAY No Baptist Record

week of July 4

There will be no July 4 edition of the Baptist Record. The paper is printed 50 weeks a year, and skips the weeks of Christmas and July 4.



Mothers' realization of need leads to new church ministry

By Deborah Aronson-Griffin

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. - Growing weary of listening to sermons from the church lobby, two mothers of mentally handicapped children began a special education class that has involved the entire church in the ministry and reaches families that previously were unchurched.

Calvary Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., began a Sunday School class for the mentally disadvantaged in 1985 when Audrey Brendel and Mabel Sechrist perceived a need and took

The two each have a mentally impaired child of their own and grew tired of listening to the pastor's ser-mon from the church lobby where they were able to listen and attend to the children's dependent needs. Hav-ing no class to take their children, they understood why families with similar situations didn't come to church. They longed for a program from which their children and others could benefit.

When a foster mother of two handicapped children began attending Calvary, the two mothers realized the need for a special ministries class was immediate. They undertook a class on their own. "It came from God's timing," says Sechrist, whose son Nicholas, has cerebral palsy.

Eventually the whole church became involved. "Like anything new, it took a while to get going," says Sechrist, "but then the church caught the vision of the need. They found us a new classroom, a teacher and volunteer workers." These volunteers alternate Sundays.

Within a year, the class developed into two separate sections, one for adults, one for children. Currently, 26 attend the adult class and 10 attend the children's class. Both feature worship time, Sunday School, activities,

and music

Beyond those in the classroom, entire families have been reached through the program. "The class has been a ministry to our family but also a real ministry to our family but also a real ministry to the community," says Sechrist. "When we began look-ing around, we saw very few churches that had programs for the handicap-ped. We found whole families not go-ing to church because of a handicapped child; or one parent would stay at home one Sunday, the other, the next. So, it not only ministers to the child and the parents, but brothers and sisters as well. It was an eye-opening experience.

Besides ministering to families in the Winston-Salem area, local institutions have benefitted from the special ministries class. Three group care homes for the mentally disadvantag-

ed attend each Sunday.

Guy Hipp, associate pastor for education feels the Sunday School

class impacts two areas at Calvary. "First of all, it allows us to meet a very important need in families' lives with special children," he says. "There surfaced in our community a number of families not attending church even though they were Christians. There was no one to take care of the needs of their special children. A number of families have been congregationalized as result of the class

"Second, seeing the children in the building gives the church a sense that we were meeting needs in people that are not exactly like us, those with ex-traordinary needs. It keeps those special needs, special interests, and special concerns before the congrega-

Kirby McCrary, an elementary Spanish teacher, directs the adults. His wife, Tammy, was one of the first teachers of the special ministries class. Tammy, a speech and language pathology major, started teaching the class in 1986. "I feel the Lord has called me to this," she says. "I am drawn to mentally handicapped people, especially adults."

Claiming she does not have any unique talents, she says, "Anything I do comes from the Lord. I think the Lord equips everybody for what he calls you to do. That is a promise everyone

can depend on."

As she teaches, she feels she learns more from them than they learn from her. "I don't know what they learn from me. I just have to leave that to the Lord," she says.

"Teaching this class has taught me to be absolutely content. Before I started teaching this class, I had the idea that God 'owed' me a good marriage, a healthy body, healthy children, a good car. God doesn't owe me," she says. "I learned from them that God is enough. I get from them the biblical truth to be content where you are and what you are.'

you are and what you are."

Kirby enjoys watching the adults grow and learn. When teaching, he doesn't leave out a single part of the Bible. He wants them to know God cares for them. "Some of the handicapped know they are (handicapped). They seem to get a glimmer like, "That's okay, God still loves me."

Jo Ann Gough, director of the children's special ministries class, is adored unabashedly by her pupils. "I receive so much more than I could

receive so much more than I could ever give," she says. "To watch them learn and see their face light up is so wonderful. You realize you've been a small instrument in God's plan.

"I don't leave out anything," she

says. "I was told studying the Holy Ghost would be too hard for them. But I present it as simply as I can then leave it up to the Holy Spirit. The children accept what you tell them." Occasionally she can see direct

results of her work with the children. Some of the kids are not verbal, so you never know if they understand you," she says. Some have been saved and baptized.

Gough takes her ministry beyond the Sunday School room by babysitting for parents of her students and having them visit her home, where she lives with her husband and their three children.

"Jo Ann is an answer to prayer," says Sechrist. "They love her. She tries to plan appropriate activities for each child. She worries a lot about Nicholas because he is probably one of the lowest functioning kids she has."

When the class first started, Nicholas was three. At nine, he sits in a wheelchair and wears braces on his legs. Unable to communicate other than through a pair of hugh, soft brown eyes and heartwarming smile, he lets his mother know how much he loves his Sunday School class. "It is a place that is his own," says Sechrist. He can be his own person.

According to Sechrist, music is his favorite part of the morning. "I know he can't understand all that is going on, but he does know he is loved," says Sechrist. "I'm asked a lot, 'What can a kid like Nicholas do?' I tell them he touches a lot of hearts and opens a lot of eyes. He can turn on hearts with that smile. He brings out the best in people. Those who are afraid of people with handicaps are missing out on

Sechrist wishes other churches would catch the vision of what a Sunday School for those with handicaps can be to families. "It has been exciting to watch it evolve," she says. "It's exciting to watch other families being ministered to. One of the biggest things the class does is that it provides a way to free us up to serve in other capacities of the church." She and her husband Steve teach the fifth-grade class. She is also a weekly coordinator for the preschool and he is a deacon and an usher.

During the summer, both the children's class and the adult class hold Vacation Bible School. This allows them to reach even deeper into the community and touch lives of those who don't attend church on a regular basis. It also provides church volunteers a chance, for a week, to work with the mentally handicapped.

When it comes to worshiping at Calvary Baptist Church, those with mental impairments have no limitations. In addition to ministering to those who are handicapped and their families, the class also allows many church members to receive blessings found only by working with the special ministries class.

Aronson-Griffin writes for BSSB.



WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. - Tina Dampier, a worker in the children's special ministries class at Calvary Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., shares an activity time with Nicholas Sechrist. Sechrist's mother helped start a special ministries class at the church when she realized other families needed the ministry. (Photo by Deborah Aronson-Griffin)

Whitney will lead workshop

Keith Linnaeus Whitney, pastor of New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan, will lead

a workshop at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Building Monday, July 22, beginning at 4 p.m. The workshop will deal with "Equipping Lay Persons for Ministry and Coping

with Stress." Whitney whitney Whitney has Gulfs served as a campus minister at 25-27.

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, and as chaplain, United States Navy, Charleston, S.C. He is a graduate of Virginia Union University ty School of Theology. He is a doctoral candidate at United Theological Sem-

nary in Dayton, Ohio.

Whitney will also conduct workshops at Victory Temple Baptist Church, Greenville, July 23 at 7 p.m.; New Morning Star Church, Tallulah, La, July 24 at 7 p.m.; and New Galilee Baptist Mission, Picayune, July 26 at 7 p.m. He will also be speaking to the Missions Development Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, July

'Choice' components may jeopardize reform package

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The "choice" aspect of President Bush's educational reform package could result in a battle that jeopardizes the proposal, members of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee said during a June 10 hearing.

Parts of the administration's America 2000 proposal (S. 1141) have been under fire from congressional, educational, and religious circles

since President George Bush made it public April 18. The "choice" aspect of the bill allows for the use of tax dollars to help parents send children to private and parochial schools. The plan offers incentives to school

districts to run choice programs, allowing parents to select which schools their children attend. Federal remedial education funds also would go with students to the schools public, private, or parochial — they attend in the choice program.

Southern Baptists adopted a resolution endorsing choice in education during their magnetic actions.

during their recent national conven-tion in Atlanta. While the need for educational reform and several elements of the President's package have gained wide acceptance, critics argue the choice proposals pose a serious threat to separation of church and state.

Simmons is camp/manager president

Frank Simmons is 1992 president of the Southern Baptist Assembly and Camp Managers Conference. Simmons, man-ager of Gulfshore

Simmons

Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Miss., is one of approximately 130 members of the group who manage camps, assemblies, and conference centers across the Southern Baptist Con-

vention.

Other officers are vice president, Dick Sutton, Beech Springs Camp, Louann, Ark.; secretary-treasurer, Albert Hagan, Dry Creek Assembly, Dry Creek, La.; historian, Evelyn Sangster, Georgia Baptist Assembly, Toccoa, Ga.; and newsletter editor, John Hyde, Piney Woods Encamp-ment, Woodlake, Texas.

The 1992 meeting of the group will be at Tall Timbers in Louisiana, Feb.

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Space is still available at Gultshore

Space is still available for most of the summer training conferences, according to Frank Simmons, manager of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly on the Mississippi coast.

Gulfshore, the retreat center for Mississippi Baptists, lies on the Bay of St. Louis at Pass Christian. With facilities for approximately 500 par-ticipants, the summer program offers youth programs and training events for adult church leaders and their families

As of this date the general youth conferences are over, but there are Young Musicians' Conference, July 6-10; and the Youth Music Conference. July 13-17.

The Family Enrichment Conference will be July 1-5 and the Discipleship Training Leadership Conference will take place July 11-13. The Church Music Leadership Con-

ference will be July 18-20 and the Bible-Preaching-Administration Con-ference will be July 25-27. That session takes place jointly with the Church Weekday Education Conference, the Stewardship Conference, the Church

music conferences ahead for youths: Missions Development Conference, and the Church Media Library Conference

> The summer schedule winds up with four Sunday School Leadership Conferences on Aug. 1-3, Aug. 8-10, Sept. 6-7, and Sept. 13-14.

For reservations at Gulfshore, contact Simmons at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571. For registration information on the various conferences, contact the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.

registration

MC schedules

Students planning on attending

Mississippi College for the second

summer term are reminded that

registration for day classes is

schedule for Monday, July 8, from 9-11:30 a.m. in the A. E. Wood Col-

iseum. Individuals taking night classes only will register from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in A. E. Wood Coliseum

on Monday, July 8 and classes will

meet immediately following comple-

tion of the registration process.

Mississippi College is offering a variety of classes for the second sum-

mer term and individuals interested

should call the Admissions Office at

925-3240 for undergraduate informa-

tion and the Office of Graduate Pro-

grams at 925-3225 for graduate



Letters to the editor

Fidelity remains inviolate

The Southern Baptist Convention in a sharply divided vote cut off all funding for the Baptist Joint Committee. This brings to conclusion 55 years of convention support.

We regret that, not so much for the amount of money involved, as for the SBC's abandonment of a clear and cooperative witness for religious liberty and separation of church and state. To the 6,101 people who voted against the motion to deny money to the Baptist Joint Committee and the millions of Southern Baptists who still offer personal and financial support, we humbly thank you.

To the 6,872 who voted to cut us out of the budget, let me make you a promise: the Baptist Joint Committee will continue to work faithfully and effectively on your behalf. Our commitment to our calling has never been predicated on how much money someone gave us. You see, we serve all Americans regardless of their church or creed, or lack of religious faith. For we are convinced, as have been Baptists for generations, that the only certain protection for Baptist beliefs in a free state is for the same protection to be provided all others.

The Southern Baptist Convention, until 1990, provided a majority of all our gifts. But it never "owned" the Baptist Joint Committee. Neither the Joint Committee nor its voice has ever been for sale.

We pledge to you that we will speak for, plead for, and fight for your religious liberty. Others will provide the funds for our work. We care about Southern Baptists. We appreciate what the convention did in years past. Our fidelity to historic Baptist stands remains inviolate.

God bless you. We shall not only survive; we shall overcome.

James Dunn **Executive Director, BJCPA** Washington, D.C.

What about the children? sheriff and let them investigate it.

I want to speak about an issue that is more and more becoming a problem in this country. The issue — child

There is a staggering amount of children abused every day. Last year alone over 1 million babies were put to death by abortion. This averages 4,000-5,000 babies aborted each of the six work days or one baby aborted every six seconds! Today in this coun-try an unborn child can be legally killed throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy. We can't pretend that he or she isn't really human. A new individual human life is created at the moment of conception. At three months old, this life is little more than 2½ inches long. This tiny person can make a fist, get hiccups, wake and sleep, and feel pain. Yet this life can be taken at any time until the day the child is born with the child not having any say in the matter.

But what happens to the ones that are allowed to live? Most grow up to be normal, healthy, productive citizens. Still others are being abused severely. We have reports of defenseless children being beaten with such items as baseball bats, electrical cords, two-by-fours, or nightsticks. Others are burned with igarettes, brutally kicked or beaten with fists, stabbed, and cut with razors. And more than ever before, children (male and female) are being sexually abused, tortured, and mangled. This shouldn't be.

But you ask, "What can I do?" First of all, put the child up for adoption in-stead of killing it. There are couples all across America that would give anything to have a baby and can't. And 99.99 percent of the time, the adopting parents will pay all medical

Second, report an abusive situation. If you know of a child that is being abused, call your county welfare department, local police, or county

Third, voice your opinion. A lot of these kids eventually will go back to the same home they were abused in. If enough people would write their political leaders, laws could be erected to keep the abusive parents from ever regaining custody. This may sound unfair, but no more unfair than a child being beaten to death.

Finally, pray. Prayer can change things. No problem is too great for God to handle and no issue is too small to bring to His attention. "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16).

Bob Leach **Blue Springs**

Evangelists compile list

We are in the process of locating all of those who are in full-time vocational evangelism both preaching and music, within our state. The Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will use this listing in compiling a directory for pastors throughout our state. The criteria for being included in this publication is that each evangelist be member of the Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists. The 1990-91 annual dues must also be current. Evangelist, please send your name, address, black/white photo, and dues if unpaid, to our secretary/treasurer Myrna Loy Hedgepeth at the following address:

> Myrna Loy Hedgepeth Secretary/Treasurer Conference of Mississippi **Baptist Evangelists** 5810 Fallview Drive Jackson, MS 39211

Ronnie Cottingham, president Conference of Mississippi **Baptist Evangelists** Lucedale

Editor:

several individuals, The Walt Disney

Should you desire to thank Disney

500 South Buena Vista

Letters to some corporations do make a difference. It is good to learn from time to time that involvement does make a difference for good.

And, I have received word from Wendy's that they will no longer help sponsor Saturday Night Live. Again, it is the result of concerned individuals who wrote.

Appeal for help

Diane Morgan, a member of our church, needs a bone marrow transplant the first week of August at M. D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, Texas. The cost is \$125,000, payable upon admission. Due to the experimental nature of the procedure, the cost will not be covered by insurance. Diane will be in the hospital approximately two months and additional expenses will be incurred by the family such as housing, transportation, etc.

Dianne has been a member of Pinelake Church, Rankin Association, for 11 years. Diane's husband, Bobby, her two sons, Steven, 26, and Michael, 5, reside at the Reservoir. Their daughter, Stefani, 23, lives in Starkville.

Your prayers, support, and con-tributions will be greatly appreciated. Any donations or inquiries may be made to: Pinelake Baptist Church, Diane Morgan Fund, 100 Spillway Road, Brandon, MS 39042.

Pat Yeomans

Letters make a difference

Just a note to let you know that because of letters of concern from Corporation recently announced that they were cancelling a contract and would not be televising a nationwide

for taking the step, the address is:

Chrm. Michael Eisner The Walt Disney Corporation Burbank, CA 91521

Donald E. Wildmon, president Term I schedule American Family Association

announced for extension centers

information.

NEW ORLEANS - The schedule of classes has been announced for Term I of the 1991-92 academic year at the Clinton and Newton, Miss., extension centers of New Orleans Seminary.
All courses accredited for the

master of divinity and master of arts in Christian education degree programs are held at Mississippi College. Courses for the associate of divinity degree program are held at Clarke

Registration for master's level courses for approved students only will be at noon Monday, Aug. 26, at Provine Chapel, Mississippi College. Classes will meet on Mondays, Aug. 26-Oct. 14.

Master's level courses offered during Term I will be "Pastoral Work" (1-5 p.m.), and "Church and Ministry" (6-10 p.m.).

Registration for the associate's level courses, "Basic Church Administration" (2:30-6 p.m.) and "Introduction to the New Testament" (6:30-10 p.m.), will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26.

For more information, contact the Registry Office, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126, or call (504) 282-4455, ext. 3304.

1,000 posts open for volunteer Civil Air Patrol chaplains

rently 1,000 openings nationwide for emergency services, such as conducvolunteer chaplaincy ministries in the ting search and rescue missions when

ilitary chaplaincy with the Southern gram for teenagers. **Baptist Home Mission Board, believes** Southern Baptist ministers could fill these positions and provide an important ministry to their communities.

Currently there are 125 Southern Baptist chaplains serving Civil Air Patrol units. A total of 1,000 chaplains of all faiths serve only half the 2,000 Civil Air Patrol units nationwide.

Col. Dennis Dwyer, director of Civil Air Patrol chaplain services, has launched a campaign to enlist 1,000 additional chaplains so every unit will have at least one chaplain.

Civil Air Patrol is a corps of 66,000 members who serve as a civilian auxiliary to the U.S. Air Force. The NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367-5601.

ATLANTA (BP) - There are cur- organization has three missions: planes are downed or missing; Lew Dawson, associate director of aerospace education; and a cadet pro-

Dawson said chaplains have opportunities to minister during search and rescue missions, to teach moral leadership courses for cadets and to provide counsel to all unit members.

Civil Air Patrol guidelines require all chaplains to receive endorsement from their denominational chaplainauthority. Southern Baptist chaplains are endorsed by the SBC Chaplains Commission, which is housed at the Home Mission Board.

Individuals interested in Civil Air Patrol chaplaincy may contact Dawson at the HMB, 1350 Spring St.



Campers on mission

Sixteen members of the Mississippi chapter of Campers on Mission are on a mission trip to Alaska. The group left June 3 from Grenada, which is the home of state president, James Ray, and his wife Mattie. Members shown are from left, Howard Conner, Smithdale; Mattie and James Ráy, Grenada; Mary Conner; Eunice Bryant, Clinton; Lynn McCoy, Carriere; second

row, Earl and Frances Allen, Ridgeland; Rudy and Nell Hurst. Biloxi; Alene Byrd, Lucedale; G.A. McCoy, Carriere; back row, Melba and Enel Nelson, Monticello; Harlan Byrd, and Hollis Bryant. The group will conduct revivals, Bible schools, witnessing, visiting, and church mission work. They will be in Alaska one month working with the Alaska Baptist Association.



Missionary proof-reads Thai translations

Missionary Barbara Ann Phlegar and Thai national Somiai Raksasee do translation proofing at the Thailand Baptist Christian Education Department in Bangkok, Thailand. She reads in English and he in Thai; however, he has a good command of English and she is fluent in Thai. They "bat" words back and forth, to make sure the Thai translation comes across with the correct meaning. Materials that are translated include Sunday School lessons and commentaries, training materials, and books. Barbara Ann also writes Sunday School materials for young children, and teaches an English class at a Baptist Center in Bangkok. She and her husband, Donald, are from Yazoo City, Miss. They were appointed as missionaries to Thailand in 1967. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

What we live is what we believe

The greatest cancer of the church today is the willingness of its membership to be "average." Another word for this malady is "mediocrity." Quite frankly, I don't want to be average in any part of my life and I don't want to

be involved in average organizations. My time, energy, and emotions are limited. Why would I want to invest them in a merely "average" endeavor or organization?
You know as well as I that if you expect advancement



Brannon

in your career, you won't make it if you are just an average employee. As a matter of fact, the successful person is the one who cultivates the habit of doing things unsuccessful people don't want to do. It is a matter of believing in what you do, so much, that you commit yourself to reaching the goals you have established.

How can we hope to impress an unbelieving world with our faith if it is of the "average" variety? Can we really expect our business associates to see Jesus in us, if our

business ethics are no different from theirs? Will our neighbors ever know that our homes are built on God, if they only see us loading the car and boat for the lake each Sunday? Vance Havner said that if most Christians approached their jobs like they do their commitment to Jesus, they would be bankrupt in short order; but if they worked as hard at Christian discipleship as they

do at their jobs, they would be spiritual giants!

Like it or not, what we live is what we believe! Don't say you love Jesus if there is not practical evidence of obedience to his word. Don't expect God to bless your life if you aren't meeting the conditions for his blessing. Carl Bates, former president of the SBC, and a true Baptist statesman once wrote: "There came a time in my life when I earnestly prayed, 'God, I want your power!' Time wore on and the power did not come. One day the burden was more than I could bear. 'God, why haven't you answered my prayer?' God seemed to whisper back his reply, 'With plans no bigger than yours, you don't need my power.'

If ever there was a cause that deserved more than average commitment,

it is the work Jesus has given us as "kingdom citizens." Brannon is pastor, Highland Church, Meridian.

Bailey Smith accepts Jacksonville pastorate

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) -Former Southern Baptist Convention president Bailey Smith has accepted the unanimous call of North Jacksonville Church to serve as pastor.

Smith paid an unexpected visit to the church Sunday, June 16, to accept the call and issued three challenges to the congregation — to be debt free in 1993, fill the 3,500-seat worship center within six months, and lead the state in baptisms next year.

Jacksonville's First Church, where former SBC president Jerry Vines is co-pastor, has been the perennial statewide leader in baptisms, totaling 989 in 1990.

For the past six years, Smith has been in full-time evangelism, based in Atlanta. Formerly, he served as pastor of First Southern Church of Del City, Okla. The Texas native is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas and Southwestern Seminary.

The North Jacksonville congregation moved to a new 43-acre, \$7.5 million facility north of Jacksonville in 1983 but remains heavily in debt.

Sunday School director cites breakthrough in healing, growth

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Breakthroughs in spiritual healing and growth, baptisms, and quality Bible teaching must happen if Southern Baptists play a major role in spreading the gospel around the world, Harry Piland told ministers of education at Glorieta Conference

"Breakthrough is needed desperate-ly in this country," said Piland, direc-tor of the Sunday School Board's Sunday School division. "If we can have breakthrough in our churches, we can have it in our convention (Southern Baptist Convention). If we can have it in our convention, we can have it in

Speaking during a session of the first of three Glorieta Sunday School Leadership Conferences, Piland listed four stackpoles of breakthrough.

Churches must focus on their Godgiven mission, said Piland - "authentic evangelism with integrity." Prayer, genuine caring, and quality Bible teaching also are needed.

"Don't settle for half-baked teaching-learning in your Sunday School," he urged.

Bill Gambrell, minister of education at First Church of Jackson, said breakthrough in churches will happen only as individuals realize their accountability for winning people to

School leaders back to seeing that reaching people for Christ is their number one priority," said Gambrell, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association.

At the same time, he said, "one of the greatest challenges of the '90s is going to be balancing church growth with discipleship and spiritual growth of our members."

Breakthrough Sunday School literature improvements which will be used in churches for the first time in October were introduced during the week, along with information about the Great Commission Breakthrough Project to be launched in 1992 to provide customized growth help to individual churches.

Literature improvements focus on four areas: greater emphasis on the Bible, stronger evangelism and ap-plication, greater ease of use, and improved attractiveness

As preparation for the Great Commission Breakthrough plan which will be launched in 1992, 400 consultants have been trained and are working in 350 pilot churches. The pilot is being evaluated this summer and materials

Randy Tompkins, associate in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is

"We've got to bring our Sunday coordinating the Mississippi pilot test with 15 churches and 20 consultants.

Beginning in 1992, the state convention has a goal of involving 200 church-

es per year.
The first breakthroughs being experienced by Mississippi churches are attitudinal, said Tompkins. They overcome their fear of changes caused by growth; they begin to care for people outside the church; they become more serious about seeking spiritual growth through the church.

"The numbers will follow these kinds of breakthroughs," said Tompkins.

Customized help for individual churches and follow-up in implementing plans and evaluating progress are the two greatest strengths of the program, he added.

Joe Haynes, Sunday School growth consultant and a member of the Great board's Great Commission Breakthrough Task Force, said spiritual healing has been the initial

breakthrough in many pilot churches.

Jerri Herring, also a member of the task force, said: "Not every church is ready to pay the price of commitment and hard work it takes to have breakthrough. Every church that is ready to allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through it will experience breakthrough.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

Kurdish refugees need prayers

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Kurat Zakho in northern Iraq. dish refugees massed on the border "We were there as an aid organization" between Iraq and Turkey are in a "state of shock," according to a stu-dent at Southwestern Seminary who recently returned from the area where he served as a translator for a Texas Baptist medical team.

Jordanian native Shaun Shorrosh, a master's of divinity student at the Fort Worth, Texas, school said refugees need the prayers and support of Americans.

"It was sad to see the people," Shorrosh said. "They were in such a state of shock, especially those that had lost family members."

He said older refugees are dying from dehydration and malnutrition, and others have been killed by Iraqi mines planted in the area.

While Shorrosh's group concentrated primarily on meeting physical needs of the refugees they also carried a Christian witness to the camp

tion," Shorrosh said. "We did not want to jeopardize our visit and our abili-ty to help and so we had to focus our attentions on their physical needs. There were just too many people to care for in such a short time."

But Shorrosh said people who helped the medical team heard the gospel constantly. While in Turkey, a young Kurdish Shiite Moslem tour guide travelling with the team ac-cepted Christ, Shorrosh said.

The seminary student said team members, "saw God at work as doors closed and others opened."

Shorrosh said on one trip, the vehi-cle the team rented broke down "right in front" of the tent of the man they were going to see. "God was at work because we had no idea where or how we would find the man," Shorrosh

And while the trip had good moments Shorrosh said it was not an

easy trip physically and emotionally.

Seeing those people suffering and what they have to go through, and see-ing so many dying without knowing about Christ was very hard," Shorrosh

He said the refugees had a "tremendous feeling" for the United States. The Kurds had named their camp Bush, in honor of President George

"It was a great opportunity to reach out to them, just to let them know that American people care for them," Shorrosh said.

The journey for Shorrosh was a homecoming to the area of the world where he was born. A Jordanian national, he lived in Nazareth, Israel, until his family moved to the United States in 1976. His father is a Baptist pastor and the family members are now naturalized U.S. citizens.

Shorrosh's wife, Amal, is also Jordanian and a student at Southwestern.

Pit bulls attack Thomason in Georgia By Polly House

Thomason, executive director of the Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention, is recuperating in a Columbus, Ga., hospital after being attacked by two pit bull dogs.

Thomason was jogging on the morning of June 12 on a road near his parents' home near Columbus when he said he heard some barking behind him. He turned and saw the two dogs chasing him. "One dog went straight for my Achilles' tendon on my right foot, and the other one went for my left hand and forearm," Thomason

After knocking him to the ground, the dogs tried to pull him off the road to a wooded area, Thomason said. Thomason had remembered seeing a store about 100 yards away from where the attack took place, but was unable to get there. "A Georgia power employee in a truck saw me waving

COLUMBUS, Ga. (BP) - John my bloody hand and stopped to help me. Fortunately, he had a radio so he radioed the county sheriff and an ambulance. If he hadn't stopped, I don't know what would have happened. I guess I got help about as fast as I could have.'

The power company employee arranged for someone to call Thomason's wife, Eleanor, and his parents to tell them what had happened. They met him at the hospital.

"The pain was excruciating. There were so many puncture wounds. But now I'm a little better. My legs are real swollen and the muscles are sore," said Thomason. "They took the IV out today."

The chaplain at the hospital made arrangements with the hospital's vice president for Mrs. Thomason to have special VIP room with a "real bed so she can stay here with me," at no ex-

tra charge, said Thomason, adding, the whole staff at the medical center has been "wonderful and so suppor-

"It was a nightmare, an absolute nightmare. If you'd ever said something like this might happen to me, I'd have said 'no way,'" said me, I'd have said 'no way,' Thomason

Thomason said the doctors have told him he may be able to be dismissed from the hospital Thursday, June 20, after they re-examine his wounds. "It will also depend on when I can wear some trousers. Right now, we are looking for some sweats that might fit on my legs."

After Thomason is dismissed, he will stay at his parents' home for a period of time. He said he did not know when he might be able to return home to Wyoming.

House writes for Baptist Press.

I SISE OPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

lune 27, 1991

HouseTops is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Witnessing: A Sunday School Priority

by Keith Wilkinson

The very foundation of what we do in Sunday School is built upon sharing our faith with others. This can take on many forms—making a witnessing visit, talking with a friend after school or work, or leading a child to learn about Jesus in Sunday School.

When it comes to visitation, many youth and adults find themselves at a loss for words. If this is a problem for you, try this format while visiting.

- Introduce yourself and any other persons visiting with you.
- 2. Identify your church.
- 3. Indicate why and whom you came to visit.
- Ask for permission to visit for a few moments.
 (Should you not be invited in, visit at the door and/or leave some printed material Sunday School pupil's book, church schedule.)
- Show interest in hobbies or find common areas of interest. (Be genuine, but brief. Move on to the purpose of your visit.)
- Find out church background and relationship to Christ.
- 7. Invite persons to your Bible study class, sharing the benefits of Bible study with a caring group of people.
- Share your witness/testimony.
- 9. Always leave by thanking the person and the family for their time. ¹The following plan can help in using Scripture as part of your witness:

The Human Problem: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

The Penalty: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

God's Provision: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

God's Promise: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)

You can help your Sunday School experience real BREAK-THROUGH...by reaching to win. My prayer is that Sunday School members will gladly share the good news with friends and neighbors.

¹Adapted from "Motivators for Sunday School Workers," Vol. 14, Number 4, Part 3, September, 1991.

This series of articles deals with how to become a Christian or how to share your faith. Articles by others will follow in future issues of HouseTops.

Central Hills

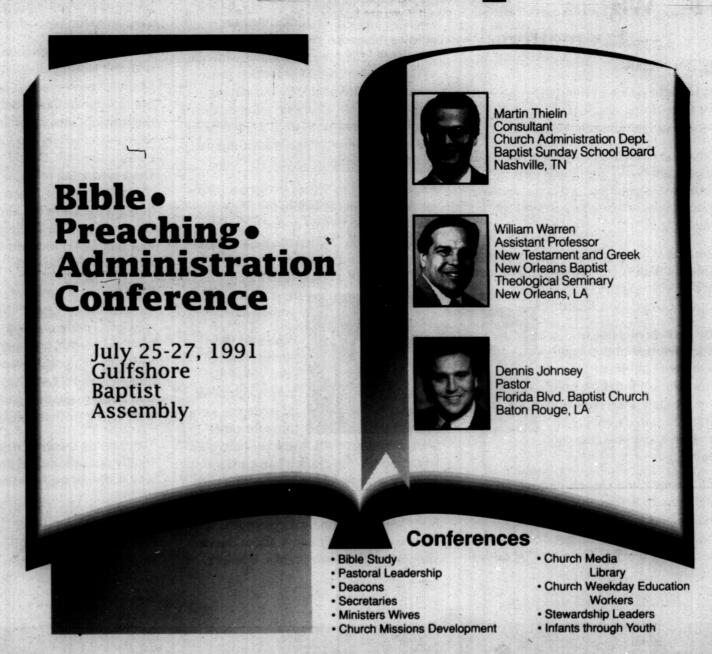
Registration for Central Hills Summer Camp 1991 sessions is still open. Royal Ambassador boys and High School Baptist Young Men (grades 4-12) may continue to register for the R.A/H.S.B.Y.M. Resident Camp sessions (Monday-Friday, maximum of 170 per session). Boys (grades 1-3) and their dads may register for the Lad-Dad Weekend Camp sessions (Friday-Saturday, maximum of 100 per session). Active participation in an R.A. or H.S. B.Y.M unit is not required for a person to register for a camp session. Each camper (boy, lad and dad) must complete an individual registration form.

Remaining resident camp dates for Royal Ambassadors and High School Baptist Young Men are July 8-12; July 15-19; July 22-26; and July 29-Aug. 2. Remaining Lad-Dad Weekend Camp sessions are June 28-29 and July 12-13.

The camp fee of \$86 per person includes all the necessary fees for the resident camp session. The camp fee of \$22.50 per person for Lad-Dad Weekend Camp provides for lodging and meals and "first call" insurance.

Several volunteer counselors are needed for each resident camp session. A volunteer can enlist a group of boys from his church or community and help with transportation for that group.

Registration forms are available from Central Hills Baptist Retreat, P.O. Box 237, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0237, phone 289-9730; your church office, your associational office, the Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, phone 968-3800.



Tour to New England —— Highlights Baptist History and Missions

In New England, you'll see not only the sites of historical interest to all Americans, you"ll see the Luther Rice Homesite and the site of famous "Haystack Prayer Meeting." You'll meet pastors, missionaries, associational Directors of Missions, and lay leaders who minister and work for the Lord in this fertile field for the Gospel.

Your life will never be the same!

Tour Dates:

July 6-12

July 27-August 2

August 10-16 September 14-20

September 21-27

September 28-October 4

ocpiember 2 i 2

October 5-11 October 19-25 October 12-18

(Tour sponsored by WMU,SBC)
For More Information Call or Write:



New England
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Heritage Travel
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Louisville, KY 40203

(800) 325-6708 or (502) 636-9<u>211</u>

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Gulfshore Baptist Assembly August 23-24, 1991



Led by Dr. Carl Dickerson

Pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church, Private counseling practice, Marriage and family seminar leader, Family ministry Area Representative, Magnolia, Ms

Begin Friday with supper at 8:00 p.m. Conclude at 3:00 p.m. Saturday

Total cost \$65 per couple

To register mail check for total amount to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571

Sponsored by Family Ministry Section, Discipleship Training Department, MS Baptist Convention Board, Jackson

Fall Festival Of Marriage

"For Love and Money"

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary September 20-22, 1991

General sessions

Keynote Speaker: Harry Lucenay

Pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX Workshops on financial management and personal relationships

Begins with registration at 2:00 p.m. Friday
First session at 6:30 p.m. Concludes at noon Sunday.
Program fee \$70 per couple if register after August 1,

\$65 before August 1. \$60 if group of 10 or more couples, or if a minister.

To register send \$45 deposit to Fall Festivals of Marriage, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203 with names of both spouses and request for registration at the New Orleans Fall Festival, September 20-22. Hotel information will be sent with confirmation of registration. Participants are responsible for their own hotel arrangements at special rates.

Sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, New Orleans Seminary, and Mississippi and Louisiana Baptist Conventions

For a brochure on other Fall Festivals of Marriage write or call Family Ministry Section, Discipleship Training Department, MS Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

FBC, Wiggins — tax matters

By Tim Nicholas

"It brought peace of mind to know what we were doing was legal," said Jeff Ingram of First Church, Wiggins.

What the associate pastor and minister of education and youth was talking about was not bingo, but taxes, more specifically, salary arrangements for church staff.

The peace of mind came after meetings with Bill Sellers, Annuity representative

for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The church was not so much worried about legality of their staff financial structure as in making certain the staff were receiving all the possible benefits in the best way allowable by the IRS.

For instance, the church discovered in dealing with Sellers that Ingram, who is unordained and living in a house on the church property, could get a tax break because he has Sunday custodial duties.

Church and financial secretary Jeanne Prescott and the custodian Arthur Rhodes had been paying their own insurance. After the group met with Sellers, the church began providing insurance and retirement. "By our paying these it became a benefit and they did not have to pay taxes on it as income as before," said Burn Page, pastor of First Church, Wiggins.

Page was sent to Sellers to discuss salary packaging choices before the church even voted on him as pastor two years ago. Said Page, "When the pastor search committee started looking at me, I had never heard of a committee that did as

much detail work as they did."

Page told the church finance committee that the church needed to do the same thing for other

staff members. Thus, the group traveled to Jackson in the church van earlier this year for a comprehensive meeting with Sellers.

Sue Dees of the finance committee said that "we just didn't know about the possibilities of those tax breaks. It helped the finance committee break down their salaries to the best advantage."

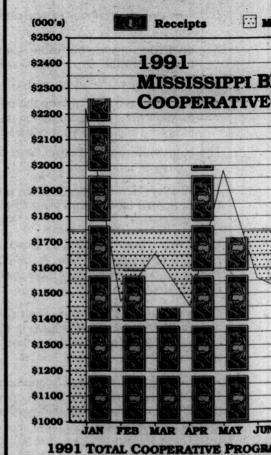
James Deazey, a deacon who works with the North Hills Mission of First Church, learned about bookkeeping options. Since Doyle Sellers, pastor of the mission, gets income from several sources, including the Gulf Coast Association, the MBCB, and the church, Deazey wanted to know how many sets of books to keep. Since everything goes through the church, Deazey learned that "it would give an auditor fits if it went in four different directions for basically the same service," he said.

Page said that the service provided by the convention board through Bill Sellers is helpful, particularly in outlining the legality of salary arrangements. He said he heard of a pastor wanting his salary broken down a certain way. A deacon, said Page, made that pastor look as if he were trying to cheat on taxes.

The training meeting with Sellers has "really put our budget in line with the way it should be," said Mrs. Prescott.

The service provided to First Church, Wiggins, is available to any church. For details, contact Sellers at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board,

Church-Minister Relations and Annuity, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.



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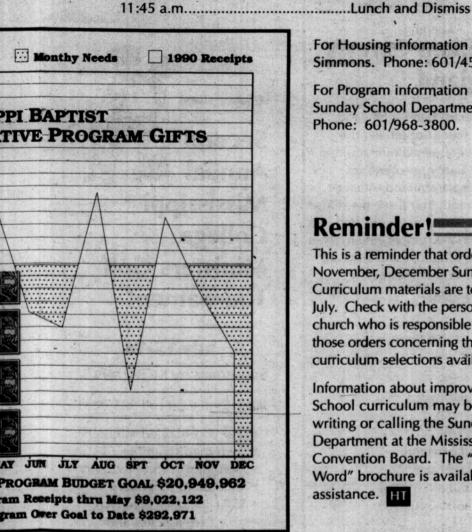
BREAK Plan Now To Attend THROUGH

Sunday School Leadership Conference Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

August 1-3 and August 8-10, 1991, will focus on reaching persons for Bible study, improving Bible teaching, and strengthening a church's Bible teaching program. Conferences will be offered for general officers and staff, teachers and directors of preschoolers, children, youth, and adults. Dynamic preaching, singing, and Bible study are provided each day. Learning experiences will be provided for preschoolers and children.

SCHEDULE

Thursday	
1:00-5:00 p.m	Registration
5:15 p.m	
6:30 p.m	Preschool Building Open
6:45 p.m	General Session
8:30 p.m	Conference #1
Friday	
	Bible Study on pier
7:00 a.m	Breakfast
	Preschool Building open
	Conference #2
	Conference #3
Noon	Lunch
1:30 p.m	Special Conferences or Free Time
5:15 p.m	
	Preschool Building Open
6:45 p.m	Selective Conference #4
8:15 p.m	General Session
Saturday	
	Bible Study on pier
	Breakfast
	Preschool Building open
	Conference #5
10:30 a.m	General Session



For Housing information contact Frank Simmons. Phone: 601/452-7261.

For Program information contact Sunday School Department. Phone: 601/968-3800.

Reminder!

This is a reminder that orders for October, November, December Sunday School Curriculum materials are to be placed in July. Check with the person in your church who is responsible for placing those orders concerning the improved curriculum selections available.

Information about improved Sunday School curriculum may be obtained by writing or calling the Sunday School Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The "Experience the Word" brochure is available for your assistance.

WMU Church Leadership Training Offers Options

FIVE ONE-DAY SESSIONS AT CAMP GARAYWA!

August 13-17 9:30 - 2:30 pm

Cost: \$4.50 for lunch and insurance

Special Features:

CONTACT Workshop (Tuesday only)

15-hour Literacy Workshop

(Overnight by pre-registration only)

(see related ad)

Mission Friends (No Advanced Leadership Track will be offered this year.)

WMU Officers

Leaders

TWO NIGHT SESSIONS AT CAMP GARAYWA!

August 12 and 13

6:30 - 9:00 pm

DAY AND NIGHT SESSIONS AT OTHER LOCATIONS Acteens Leaders

 Hattiesburg, First Baptist Church August 19, 6:30-9:00 p.m. August 20, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

 Tupelo, First Baptist Church August 19, 6:30-9:00 p.m. August 20, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

(Please bring a sack lunch on August 20)

GA Leaders

Baptist Women officers

Conferences for all church WMU leadership will be offered.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! **DON'T MISS IT!**

Have You Ever Wished You Could Teach Someone To Read?

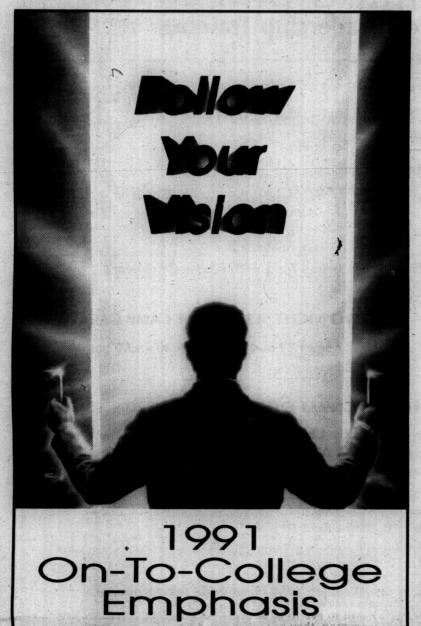
Well, Have We Got A Deal For You!

A 15-hour Literacy Workshop will be offered at Camp Garaywa, August 15 and 16. The cost is \$50 per person, which includes registration fee, books, meals, and lodging. The teacher will be Juanita Schilling of Mendenhall.

The Workshop begins at 9:30 a.m. on the 15th and concludes at 2:30 on the 16th.

Participation is by pre-registration only, and the deadline is August 1.

(This is a special track offered during the WMU Church Leadership Training.)



THIS IS A SAMPLE BULLETIN INSERT FOR "ON-TO-COLLEGE" SUNDAY IN AUGUST. Bulletin inserts are available from the Department of Student Work submit your order by July 15th to



Your Invitation to Involvement

1991 ON-TO-COLLEGE EMPHASIS

"Follow Your Vision"

Joel 2:28

Suggested Service for a Sunday of your choice in August

, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Call to Worship/Welcome	Student
Prayer/Theme Interpretation	
Hymn of Praise "We've A Story To Tell To The Nations"	
Suggested Student Testimonies (Use as many as appropriate)	

#1 "A Vision Fulfilled" — The meaning of the high school experience and the important people who have made it a positive experience.

#2 "A Vision For The Future" — What are the potential stumbling blocks in the future? How can the church help each student overcome these?

#3 "Elements Of A Christian Vision" — What are the spiritual challenges as one enters college? Perhaps a student who has been active in the BSU can share how BSU has helped him/her understand the spiritual dimensions of what college is all about.

#4 "Following The Vision" — Encourage older students to share how they have been involved in Christian discipleship through the BSU and college church involvement.

	"Wonderful Words of Life"	하다 사람들은 사람들은 사용하다 하는 것이 되었다. 아무슨 물로 보면 하면
Special Music		Student or
		College Choir
Message	•••••	Pastor, Youth/College Minister,

TIME OF COMMITMENT AND CONSECRATION: At this time, the church could present each student with a gift or gifts to communicate continued commitment to care for the students during their collegiate years.



Dorothea Love, head cook at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, grills chicken on a newly-donated \$3,200 outdoor cooker. The cooker was given by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Coziar of Madison, members of First Church, Ridgeland. Central Hills Manager Dan West said the camp uses the cooker at least twice a week. HT

Church Renewal Specialized Training Conferences

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

August 10, 1991

First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

August 17, 1991

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

Conferences will be conducted for the following areas:

Renewal Coordinators Youth Coordinators Children's Workers

Adult Team Members Youth Team Members

This event is sponsored by the Brotherhood Department.





William Carey's **England**

In William Carey's England, you'll tour London and the British countryside in addition to

seeing the church where Carey preached his famous "Expect great things from God, Attempt great things for God" sermon. You'll see the house where the first missions offering was collected in a snuff box. You'll also have the opportunity to meet the saints who toil for the Kingdom and who are today the living legacy of William Carey!

Your life will never be the same!

1991 Tour Dates:

October 7-16

October 21-30

November 4-13 November 18-27

December 2-11

(Other dates available in 1992)

(Tours sponsored by WMU, SBC)

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(800) 438-5828 or (704) 254-0746 Ask for Mary Plybon



July 15-16

Sponsored by MC & MBC

For information call 925-3831

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- Limited to 92 golfers
- \$50 includes green fee, cart, lunches and refreshments HT



By Margaret H. Rogers

This is the 100th anniversary of the Sunday School Board. The backbone of the entire program is the volunteer teacher. Margaret Howard Rogers is one of the finest, and was requested to share her techniques with the 38,000 Sunday School teachers in Missis-

A statement from a Sunday School conference leader at Ridgecrest has echoed in my ears for many years: "Always teach from the overflow." Still another motivator made this observation: "You teach some by what you say, more by what you do, but most by what you are." But that which has intensified my own efforts as a teacher are the words found in James 3:1: "Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brother, because you know we who teach will be judged more strictly" (if we fail to do our best). Therefore, I try to adhere to the following spiritual acrostic as a guide for improving Bible teaching:

Teacher preparation: In September of each year, I obtain a copy of Life & Work Lesson Annual and scan it to note the scriptures and titles to be studied for the year. At the beginning of each quarter, I try to become even better acquainted with the quarterly units and the scripture and subject matter for the three month period, noting suggestions for extra material that may need to be ordered. Planning ahead in this way affords opportunity for research, finding and clipping articles, current events, illustrations, that will help to enhance the teaching period. On a weekly basis, I look over Sunday School materials and make individual assignments to class members. I read all the scripture passages, recording the central Bible truth and teaching aim. I then consult commentaries, and on Thursday study the lesson in the Baptist Record. Each Friday and Saturday, I complete the lesson plan in light of members' interests and needs, closing with at least one item to stimulate the study of the next Sunday's lesson. Enlistment of help available: The following is a list of the Life & Work

resources which I use in teaching: Adult Life & Work Annual Adult Life & Work Resource Kit Studying Lessons by Hershel Hobbs Senior Adult Bible Study Adult Bible Teacher (available in regular and large print) Single Adult Bible Study Lesson Plan sheets Personal Devotional Guide for

Advanced Bible Study Bible Study leaflets (for prospects and visitors)

Biblical Illustrator (for all series) ACTS Channel, lesson taught by seminary professors, directed by Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Seminary

Quarterly tapes Class Members Lesson Preparation Guide

A secret that enhances teaching: I believe that teaching is enhanced when the teacher teaches the Truth, lives the Truth, depends upon the Holy Spirit, loves class members, and makes personal contacts.

Concern for and knowledge of members: The use of an information sheet for each member, contacts by telephone, and visits are all ways of showing concern for and knowing members. The use of a yearbook with addresses, telephone numbers, birthdays, anniversary dates, and assigned group leaders and groups is an organized way to keep pertinent information readily accessible.

Hour of teaching that not only imparts Bible knowledge, but also focuses on application to life needs and involvement of members: I have found that assignments made weekly to members encourage more study and involvement on their part. I also use the Class Members Lesson Preparation Guide to get class members more involved and make application of lesson truths to their lives. The use of visual and auditory materials enhances teaching by providing variety. I make use of tapes and other appropriate materials to appeal to individual learning styles.

Evaluation opportunities: It is valuable to obtain quarterly input from members in order to improve teaching and to meet their interests and needs. I use the suggested forms found in the teaching materials and also create forms for specific needs.

Results: The following are evidence of ways I assess my effectiveness as a teacher: changed lives, professions of faith, consistent stewardship, faithfulness in class and church attendance, active participation in choir, prayer meeting attendance, and service to others.

Someone has said, "The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher demonstrates, but the great teacher inspires." So, teach me, Lord, that I may inspire.

Mrs. Rogers teaches an adult Sunday School class at Salem Church,

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



"God calls in unusual ways"

and Isaiah and Paul.

God called Mary Anna Gilbert. After one month as a missionary journeyman teacher in China, she died in a plane crash on Oct. 2, 1990,

God had called Mary Anna's father, Clayton Gilbert, while he was a col-lege student "to be His servant somewhere." In those days, I remember well, he had a great sense of humor and a talent for working with children and youths — for telling Bible stories and directing games. He and Robert Wooddy, his buddy at Howard College, now Samford, directed a Vacation Bible School one summer I've never forgotten. Two churches, County Line and Center, met for VBS at Grove School. It must have been in the early '40s, and I was

God's call led him to Southern Seminary, where he met Scottie, who became his wife. It led him to two pastorates and then to Alabama's Brotherhood to direct the Royal Ambassadors and on to Memphis to the SBC Brotherhood as Crusader consultant. It led him to First Church, Alexander City, Ala., as associate pastor.

God's call led him after his 1986 retirement to become pastor of Pine Grove, a small rural church near Camp Hill, Ala. My cousin, Charles Hinkle, is chairman of deacons at Pine Grove, and Mama lives only eight miles from Camp Hill.

God's call led Clayton Gilbert to the speaker's platform at the WMU, SBC annual meeting in Atlanta June 3. "I didn't want to accept the invitation to speak," he said. He knew it would be difficult. "But in my mind I could hear Mary Anna." He paused to swallow his tears. "I could hear Mary Anna say-ing, 'Oh Daddy, you can do it!' " He said he'd always enjoyed the

missionary hymns he had learned from WMU, like "O Zion Haste": "Give of thy sons to bear the message

God called Abraham and Moses glorious; Give of thy wealth to speed them on their way; Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious; And all thou spendest Jesus will repay."

"But," he added, "we as parents never thought we would be called to give up our own." They had never realized that "Give of thy sons" could 'really mean death.'

'We knew God's call to Mary Anna was an unusual one," her father told the Atlanta audience. Then, in a moving tribute, he told of her life and her

Mary Anna Gilbert was born May 27, 1967 — a "big surprise" — when her dad was 45; her sister, Nancy Clay, was 13; and her brother, John Bob, was 11. "I was scared!" said Clayton. "I was old enough to be her grandfather!" But all the family welcomed her with open arms.

In Alabama RA camps, little Mary Anna met many missionaries. In First Church, Alexander City, she took part in missions activities.

While she was in school at Univerity of Alabama, she went "all-out" in BSU and in the student program at Calvary Church, Tuscaloosa. Every spring she would go on the BSU mission trip. In fact, she got so involved in church that her dad told her, "You need to spend more time at the library instead of every activity at Calvary.

"Daddy, I can't believe you said

When Mary Anna began to talk about God's call to her to be a missionary journeyman, they encouraged her to be sure it was God's call, and not just a call to please her parents. When she was definite, they gave her their wholehearted support as she made her application.

A doctor told her she wouldn't pass

the physical unless she got her weight and blood pressure down. She did that.

When Scottie and Clayton went to her commissioning service at the Missionary Learning Center, Rockville, "Never had we seen her so happy."

Drugs worst problem, teens say;

adults believe it's peer pressure

"Why did you choose China?" he asked her.

"I feel called to serve in a Third World country where they need help

And so she went to China as a representative of Cooperative Services International, planning to teach English for two years at a university in Meixian in Guangdong Providence.

"When we heard the news of her death, we were devastated, heartbroken," Clayton said. "But we knew God's grace was sufficient, and it is. The love of God is broader than the mind of man can contain. With cards and calls, people all over the world have showed us such love!

"No one could ever doubt the love and concern of the Foreign Mission Board and the U.S. government and its consulate in China. How they helped us, and are still helping us!

"God's call comes in unusual ways. One person from the American Consulate in Guangzhou has been called to a renewed faith in God; a band director-youth director in an Alabama town has been challenged to live his life at best; many others have felt God's leadership to serve him more effectively.

"God calls in unusual ways," he said through tears. "In answer to his call, Scottie and I are in the summer of 1992 going to teach English through CSI in the same university where Mary Anna taught.

"We will be able to see firsthand the needs in China, where Mary Anna learned to love the people in such a short time."

They can visit the cafe where Mary Anna wrote, "The rice fields are beautiful and I love sitting here on the veranda, where I can meditate. Life goes slowly here.'

"Who knows?" he asked as he closed his message. "God may be calling your daughter or son. Give them your blessing and encourage them on their way. God does call in unusual ways."

Southwestern Seminary will teach class via satellite

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) -Space-age technology is being used this fall to teach ancient history at Southwestern Seminary in Fort receive the instruction. Fite said more Worth, Texas.

In a new program being introduced during the fall semester, William Tolar, vice president for academic affairs and provost and distinguished professor of biblical backgrounds at the seminary, will teach a class live through a satellite transmission linking eight cities in Texas and Oklahoma.

According to David Fite, Southwestern's director of continuing education, the class will be produced at the seminary and sent live to the Radio/Television Commission in Fort Worth, which will uplink the transmission to a satellite.

Classrooms in Dallas, Houston, San

Antonio, Lubbock, Amarillo, and Odessa, Texas, and Shawnee and sites will be added if interest is shown in other cities.

While the program is not available on the ACTS network or through a cable company, Fite said anyone with a satellite dish can receive the class. He said instructions are needed in order to downlink from the satellite for reception. Enrollment in the class provides study material for the

More information on the program is available from Fite by writing to the Office of Continuing Education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, P. O. Box 22000, Fort Worth, Texas, or by calling (817) 923-1921 ext.

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Teens placed drugs at the top of the list of the biggest problems they face today, but adults claim peer pressure is the number one nemesis of youth, surveys

A Gallup poll listed 54 percent of American youth as saying drugs are their biggest foe, while 12 percent listed alcohol as second. Pregnancy was third with 11 percent; peer pressure, 10 percent; AIDS, 5 percent; and parents, growth, no job, and suicide each at 2 percent.

On the other hand, adults believe peer pressure is the top concern of young people, according to an infor-mal survey taken during Summer Youth Celebrations at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Centers last year.

Adults listed personal problems as the second biggest problem of youth; family, third; and spiritual, fourth.

Young people surveyed at Glorieta and Ridgecrest last year listed drugs as their biggest problem; peer pressure, second; alcohol, third; sex, By Terri Lackey

fourth; and family, last.

Sneed suggested, adults might lump the drug use by youth in the same category as peer pressure, possibly explaining the discrepancies in the youth and adult surveys:

'Peer pressure means putting pressure on one another to conform to certain moral ideas and standards, Sneed said. "That can run the gamut from sexual promiscuity and drugs to dabbling in occults and the New Age movement.

"But peer pressure can be positive as well," he said. "Christian youth can help their friends be good disciples, read their Bible daily, and pray consistently.'

Aligning adults' and teens' ideas of the youth's biggest problems will take communication among the two groups and time together.

"The key is coming up with ways to do more things (at church) with young people and parents together," Sneed said. "A lot of young people say they never do anything with their parents outside of them serving as a

chaperon for some event."

Chaperons are viewed as authority figures, Sneed said, and youth sometimes need to be able to look upon their parents and other adults as companions and friends.

Providing youth and adults with simultaneous training and ministry opportunities is one way to place them n a more equal level of understand-

ing, he said. Other data offered by Sneed revealed teens spend 40 minutes a week talking to their fathers and 55 minutes a week talking to their mothers.

"Those areas need to be addressed by youth ministers," Sneed said. "More and more today, moms and dads are in the workplace, and they have their schedules, and the youth have theirs.

"Communication is the key to closeness. The world is very unassumingly robbing families of time together and we need to work on ways to combat that."

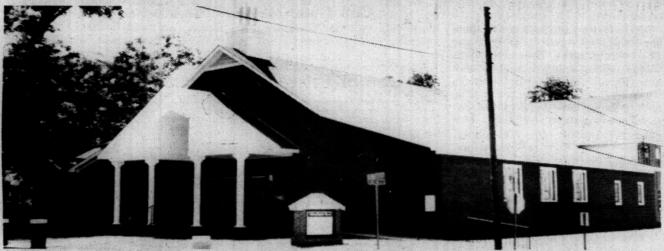
Lackey writes for BSSB.

Just for the Record



Monroe Associational GAs held a mission costume party, "Where is the World?" May 17, at Becker. Seventy seven girls

and leaders attended, representing 11 countries. Elizabeth McNeese is GA director, Monroe Association.



Calvary Church, Waynesboro, will hold a dedication service for its newly remodeled sanctuary, June 30. Sunday

School at 10 a.m., worship at 11, and dinner on the ground will follow in the Family Life Building. Doug Broome is pastor.



First Church, Mathiston, Webster Association, held a note burning ceremony, Sunday, June 9, after the morning

service, for its Family Life Building. Higdon Herrington is pastor.



Emmanuel Church, Pearl, dedicated 10 babies for Baby Dedication on Mother's Day, May 12. Pictured are, Zachery and Ryan Collins, sons of Ronald and Ramona Collins and grandsons of Norma Patton; Dennis Seaney, son of Marlon and Nancy Seaney; Daniel Haralson, son of Bobby and Karen Haralson; Shelby Nichols, daughter of Howard and Lynne Nichols; Christin Harrison, daughter of Jeff and Sharon Harrison; Hannah Yates, daughter of Hubert and Tracey Yates; D. J. Judd, son of David and Neva Judd; and Michael Adcock, son of Mike and Goldie Adcock. Not Pictured is Austin Whitehead, son of Tim and Kay Whitehead. Tommy Anderson is pastor.



First Church, Chicora, recently held its GA Recognition Service, with the theme "My Promise to God." Pictured, left to right, are Kala Lofton, Amanda Mills, Melena Iddings, Christy Walley, Michelle Beasley, April Crane, Tonya Rochauix, BreAnn Beasley, April Rochauix, and Jessica Beasley. GA leader is Sherry Sturdivant.

Wynndale Church, Springridge Road, Terry, will have a patriotic celebration Wednesday, July 3 at 7 p.m. Featured speaker will be Wayne Burkes, Central District Highway Commissioner. Charles Gentry is pastor.

rkes, Central District Highway in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; ar Wolfe, a pastor in Mobile, Ala. formation, call 868-1060.

Staff changes

Evansville Church, Northwest Association, in Tate County has recently called James Hugh Powell as music minister. He and his family live in Tate County where he is employed at ChromCraft, Inc. Leslie Mason is presently the youth director. Bernette Fielder is pastor.

William Quartrone has resigned as pastor of Baxterville Church in Lumberton, effective June 2. A native of Georgia, he received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. Quartrone is moving to Buras-Triumph Church in Buras, La.

Kurt Wesolowski has accepted the call as pastor to Trinity Church, Waterloo, Iowa, effective May 19. He has been pastor of First Church, Waveland, since April 1989. A native of New Orleans, he received his degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Marty D. Comer, Tupelo, has accepted the call as pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Woodland, effective June 2. He graduated from New Orleans Seminary in May, receiving his master of divinity degree.

Donald R. Silkwood has resigned as pastor of New Ireland Church, Newton Association, effective July 7. He receives his bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College on Aug. 9. He has been accepted in the Master of Divinity with Languages degree program at Southeastern Seminary and plans to move to Wake Forest on July 8. His new address will be 100 McDowell Rd., Wake Forest, NC 27587, phone number (919) 556-0142.

Ben Atkinson has been called as minister of education by First Church, Vicksburg. The Clinton native formerly served Fortified Hills Church in Smyrna, Ga. Atkinson received the bachelor's degree from Mississippi College, and the master's degree from Southwestern Seminary.

County Line Church, State Line, has called Ron Swindall as minister of music and youth. He will graduate from William Carey College in December. A native of Laurel, his previous place of service was Highland Church, Laurel. This is the first time County Line Church has called a minister of music and youth.

A GA Recognition Service was held at First Church, Vicksburg, on May 15. GAs pictured are first grade, Sharon Virden, teacher; Lisa Dispenza, teacher; Brittany Claypool; Abigail Claypool; Lauren Crutcher; Cassie Griffing; Rebecca Harden; Leigh Jolly; Bonnie Lee; Laura Sears; Stephanie Swillie; and Melissa Swain.

Second grade, Elwanda McCabe, director; Becky Jolly, teacher; Lacey Chaney; Lee Claypool; Dana Godfrey; Katie Grogan; Sara Jolly; Christina Koester; Melanie Mendrop; Holly Neal; and Jessie Tomlinson.

Third and fourth grade, Carol Fron, teacher; Mary Hallberg, teacher; Yvonne Paeth, teacher; Jennifer George; Amanda Logue; Maggie Maynord; Amber Middleton; Anna Stone; Jessie Bryant; Lana Freeman; April Fron; Melanie Hallberg; Brittany Lee; Bethany Marr; and Melissa Mullen.

Fifth and sixth grade, Beverly Maynord, teacher; Alice Shelton, teacher; Lori Albritton; Julie Craft; Amanda Pikul; Mary Ferrell; Annabeth Freeman; Stacey George; Beth Hassell; Ashley Shelton; Beth Ann Sullender; and Amy Catherine Virden.

Hubert Greer, music evangelist, will present a concert on Sunday, June 30, 7 p.m., at Star Church, Rankin Association. Gayden Harrell is pastor.

AMERICA, A PATRIOTIC MUSICAL, by David T. Clydesdale and Nan Gurley will be presented by Briarwood Drive Church, Jackson, June 30, 7 p.m. and July 1, 7 p.m. David Merritt is pastor. Danny Brock is minister of music.

A July for Jesus Campaign will be held at Sharon Church, Long Beach, during the month of July. Services will be held each Monday at 6:30 p.m. Speakers will be as follows: July 1, Benny Jackson, an evangelist in Memphis, Tenn.; Ron Herrod, a pastor in Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Garland McKee, director of evangelism, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson; Rick Stanley, an evangelist in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; and Fred Wolfe, a pastor in Mobile, Ala. For information, call 868-1060.

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New national alumni officers for New Orleans Seminary are (left to right) Neil Glausier, treasurer, associate pastor at Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala.; Don Bouldin, president, pastor of Briarlake Church, Decatur, Ga.; Gene Henderson president-elect, pastor of First Church, Brandon; and Ken Story, secretary, pastor of First Church, Germantown, Tenn. Officers were elected during the recent annual National Alumni and Friends Luncheon held during the Southern Baptist Conven-



Progress Church, Pike Association, held its 63rd anniversary homecoming on June 2 with six charter members in attendance. They are, left to right, Mrs. Mamye Barclay, Wincel Raborn, Mrs. Wanda Henry, Claude Alford, Mrs. Velma Lee Addison, and Archie McMillan. Billy Ray Simmons is pastor.



Lisa Thompson, a member of Pope Church, Panola Association, was presented a love offering on May 19 from the mission organizations and the church for her use as summer missionary in Kenya, Africa. The offering from VBS was voted on and sent to Lisa. Pictured, are (front row) Constance Collins, Jon Pratt; (middle row) David Odom, Ashley Lewis, Emily Broome, Pam Williford, Brittany Flippo, Elizabeth Flippo, Amanda Rikard, Larry Joe Pratt; (back row) Bill Cole, chairman of deacons, Rosemary Hubbard, Lisa Thompson, Kate Florence, Eve Florence, Lara Broome, and Beth Brown.

Jerry W. Stevens, retired director of

missions in Winston Association, and his wife, Bonnie, moved into their home near Tupelo on June 22. Their new address is Route 3, 45 Westwood Estates, Saltillo, MS 38866. The phone number is 869-1609.



North Delta sponsors singles-led revival

North Delta Association will sponsor a singles-led revival, July 12 and 13, at First Church, Tunica. Services will be held at 7:30 p.m. nightly with Stan Fornea, pastor, First Church, Cleveland, as guest speaker. Martin Bell of Jackson will provide music.

"Mini-conferences" will also be held Saturday moring for all singles, followed by a pool fellowship and cookout. Housing will be provided for those who wish to stay over Friday evening.

For more information, contact Ann Owens, singles coordinator, North Delta Association, 363-2311.

Homecomings

Darlove Church, Washington Association: Aug. 9-11; beginning 10:30 a.m. Sun., and 7 p.m. nightly; covered dish dinner, Sun. noon; after-noon singing, 1 p.m.; "The Cannanas" of Jackson, guest singers; John Lindsay Noble, Rogersville, Tenn., guest speaker; Bob Gilliland, pastor.

Unity Church, Moselle: July 21; 11 a.m.; covered dish, 12:30 p.m.; no night services; Allan Nix, Laurel, guest speaker; David W. Aultman, pastor.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Southside Church, Jackson: July 7-12; 6-8:30 p.m., nightly, classes for all ages; adults only, morning sessions, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Mon.-Fri., July

Revival dates

Shady Grove Church, Hazlehurst: July 7-10; Sunday - Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner on grounds; Billy Howse, evangelist; John Lemonis, music; Don Hoy,

em Church, Benton (Yazoo): July 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch at the church, 1:30 p.m. service; no night service; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Ken Anderson, evangelist; Bob White, music; John Schoolar, pastor.

Homewood Church, Homewood: July 7-10; services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; Robert J. Sanderson, evangelist; A. R. Vaughn, pastor.

Emmanuel Church, Meridian: June 30-July 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; C. C. Burns, evangelist; Ernest West, music; Dorothy Vick, pianist; and Larry Cockerham, pastor.

Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg: June 30; one day revival, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. with dinner on the grounds; Rodney Gage, evangelist; Mike Aultman,

Bethany Church, Slate Springs (Calhoun): Old Fashion Day, July 7-12; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; dinner on the grounds following Sunday morning service; a "Lamplight Service" Sunday evening; homemade ice cream supper following Thursday evening service; Henry E. Hight, pastor, will preach his first revival since going to Bethany Church, March 15; Hubert Greer, music evangelist, will sing and direct the music; Bethany Church, constituted on July 16, 1836, is the oldest of the SBC churches in Calhoun County; antiques, collectables, a 1915 Ford, first automobile purchased in Calhoun County, and an old surrey will be on

Oak Grove Church (Yazoo): July 7-10; Sunday, services, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, no Sunday night services; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Guy Henderson, editor of the Baptist Record, evangelist; Bill Martin, Oak Grove Church, music; Mark Robinson, pastor.

First Church, Coffeeville: June 23-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., noon and 7:30 p.m.; Bert Harper, West Jackson Church, Tupelo, evangelist; Richard Williams, First Church, Coffeeville, music; Truman D. Scarborough, pastor.

Revival results

Unity Church, Moselle: May 19-24; Tracy Hipps, Laurel, evangelist; Edward Jordan, Sanford, music; David W. Aultman, pastor; six professions of faith and four by letter.

Thursday, June 27, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Book reviews

pians are now available. J. B. Fowler, editor of the Baptist New Mexican and former pastor of First Church, McComb, is author of Basic Bible Sermons on Philippians. This will be of great value to anyone teaching Philip-pians. The book is available from Broadman Press.

Growing a Caring Church, is by

Tom and Janie Lovorn, formerly of Bethany Church in Slate Spring and Ellard Church, Bruce. The new growth resource manual and material packet is a revision of their previous book, Building a Caring Church, Scripture Press, 1986. The packet is available from Church Growth Insitute, Lynchburg, Va.

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Tishomingo Association honors Stubblefield on retirement



Tishomingo Association held a retirement banquet May 21 for Charles Stubblefield, director of mis-sions, and his wife, Marie. Over 100 friends and relatives attended the banquet held at Tishomingo Church. A money tree and other personal gifts were presented to the Stubblefields. He received a plaque of appreciation presented by the moderator of the association and Mrs. Stubblefield was given a plaque for service in WMU.

Ray Grissett, director, Cooperative Missions, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, was the guest

The Stubblefields will make their home in Ecru. He is available for pulpit supply and/or interim and can be contacted at 489-8048 or write P. O. Box 63, Ecru, MS 38841.

The BAPTIST RECORD goes to press on Tuesday mornings for mailing on Wednesdays. This means that material for stories in the paper must reach the BAP-TIST RECORD offices by noon on the previous Friday.

With most mail in Mississippi taking two days to travel, the stories need to be mailed on Wednesdays for possible inclusion in the following week's paper.

Dated material receives priority handling. A death over the weekend would be the type of exception the BAPTIST RECORD would consider handling on a Monday for the week's issue. Revivals starting that week are not. The **RECORD** will use revival notices mailed late as "in progress."

To be unduly troubled by trouble makes your trouble double. - Arnold

Senior Adult Corner

A senior adult "Spiritual Enrichment Crusade" will be held at Bowmar Avenue Church, Vicksburg, July 14-16, at 6:30 p.m. nightly. Bob Norman will be the preacher; Russell Newport, featured soloist; and Irene Martin, pianist. Guest senior adult choirs will sing each evening; Sunday, First Church, Brandon; Monday, Parkway Church, Jackson; and Tues-day, First Church, Hainesville, La.

Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, honored its senior adults during the morning worship service Sunday, May 26. There are 36 senior adults listed on the church roll and those present were seated in specially marked pews. The church's Mission Friends organization presented each one pre sent with a paper teapot complete with verse and tea bag. These adults were again honored at the Wednesday prayer meeting service with a supper. Bryan Abel is the pastor and Stephen Bath is the minister of music and

Off the Record

'After the ship has sunk, everyone knows how it might have been saved. Italian proverb

When a man begins to realize the truth about himself, it reduces his desire to reform his neighbors.

Hymns Baptists Sing . . .

"God is my strong salvation"

Psalm 27:1-3, made by James Montgomery in 1822. The beauty of the psalm and the psalmist's confidence in God are clearly evident in these two stanzas.

Montgomery was an ardent newspaper publisher in Sheffield, England. He fearlessly spoke his con-victions even when it brought him great difficulty. Imprisoned twice for his editorials, he championed humanitarian causes and was a

This hymn is a poetic version of strong voice for the abolition of slavery in England. In his newspaper he openly supported missionary enterprise and the British Bible Society.

The tune WEDLOCK was found in North Carolina in 1918, by the English folksong collector Cecil Sharp. Working among the people in the Appalachian mountains, Sharp invited individuals to sing for him folksongs, which he wrote down. Several collections of these songs were published in Seminary.

England in the years that followed Sharp's work there.

The excellent harmonization of this folksong melody was made by Donald P. Hustad of the School of Church Music, Southern Seminary.

The singing of this hymn in our services provides an inspirational experience with this portion of Psalm 27.

William J. Reynolds is Professor of Church Music at Southwestern



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LETTERS FROM CAREY Academic Programs

By Dr. Larry Braidfoot, Provost and Academic Vice President

June 27, 1991

"I treasure your word in my heart" Psalm 119:11

"Visions of Excellence" is motto describing the aspirations of the William Carey family.

Each of us has our own particular vision for what Carey should be. These special visions have much in common. But our interests in different emphases at Carey--liberal arts, music, nursing, business---also make those visions unique.

Part of my vision for Carey is the exciting opportunity afforded our students to learn about the Bible in a program of archaeology being started by one of our new faculty members, Dr. Daniel Browning.

The excavation project at Tel Qasile is one of the new emphases of the Owen and Elizabeth Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies at William Carey College. The program is operated jointly by William Carey College and Baptist Orleans Theological Seminary and is directed and led by faculty

7

members Dr. Daniel C. **Browning of William Carey** College and Dr. R. Dennis Cole of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.
A goal of the Cooper

School is that students will participate in formal biblical studies courses and also have experiences which enable them to apply their knowledge.

Those who participate in the excavation project will have the opportunity of doing "hands on" archaeology. They will also have the opportunity to meet Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in the Middle East. They will have the opportunity of formulating their own way of communicating about their faith in different cultures. different belief systems.
The following letter from

Dr. Browning captures some of the flavor of what is proving to be a stimulating summer of hard work for a small group from Mississippi and Louisiana.

May it help you catch our vision of faith and service.

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL 17 June 1991.

A small group of Baptist students and laypersons began digging last June 10 at an archaeological site in Northern Tel Aviv, Israel. The site, Tel Qasile, is in the area of Israel which only months ago was the target of Iraqi Scud missiles.

This year's dig is the first in what is planned to be an

annual activity.

Tel Qasile was an important Philistine center during the period of the judges. The site, whose biblical name is not known, was probably conquered by the Israelites under King David. It perhaps was used by Solomon as a port for receiving cedars of Lebanon and other materials used in constructing the Temple in

Among the important discoveries in recent years is a series of Philistine temples, the only such buildings known.

The current two-week dig at Tel Qasile is focusing on a large building-from the time period of the last Philistine temple—which was destroyed by fire, perhaps by David.

Marvin "Bo" Farrior is a William Carey senior, church-related vocations student. Digging among the burned, fallen bricks of the Philistine building, Farrior has discovered the fragments of many Philistine store jars and the skeletons of sheep or

"Seeing how biblical people lived and worked helps me to understand that they had the same concerns we do," Farrior said. "I'm afraid we do not usually read the Bible and see the characters as 'real'. Now I can relate to the biblical stories as stories about real people."

"It is hard work, and dirty," observes Baptist layperson Debra Smith of Denham Springs, La. "But it is exciting to be working to discover the secrets of the past."



Dr. Daniel Browning

Ongoing excavations at Tel Qasile have been directed in recent years by Professor Amihai Mazar of the Institute of Archaeology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem on behalf of the Eretz-Israel Museum in Tel Aviv.

Prior to the excavation at Tel Qasile, the group participated in an intensive two-week tour of biblical sites in Israel.

(P.S. Next Week: Honors and Academic Programs)

Called to be faithful to God's purpose

By Ruth N. Allen

Ezra 9:2-3, 10-11; 10:9-13 The story is told of a French gunner who was directed by his commanding officer to train his gun on a little house in the distance where he suspected the enemy might



be hiding. The soldier obeyed, and the house was blown to bits. Highly pleased with his expert marksmanship, the com-mander turned to his gunner with a compliment only to find the soldier with teardimmed eyes. Asked why he wept, the gunner said, "That was my home." "If you had

told me," said the officer, "I might have modified my order." "A soldier's first duty is to obey orders," came the swift

According to Webster, "faithful" means "firm in adherence to whomever one owes allegiance." Consequently, a person becomes faithful when he learns obedience. Faithfulness and obedience are synonymous words conveying a central truth, to be faithful, one must comply with the wishes of the one to whom allegiance is due. How then could some of the

UNIFORM

exiles who returned with Ezra from Babylon be

Some of the leaders brought to Ezra a report confirming that some had not obeyed the command of God to separate themselves from the people of the land. They had intermarried, mixed, and mingled with the inhabitants until their lives were tainted with sin. Ezra was so deeply disturbed when he heard the report that he tore his clothes and plucked his beard. However, the people who reverenced God joined Ezra in a vigil and waited before the altar until time for the evening sacrifice. Then Ezra fell upon his knees, spread forth his hands, and confess-

ed the sins of the people to God.

Ezra acknowledged in prayer that God had punished the people because of their sins. He then thanked God for not being as severe in administering punishment as the people deserved. He also thanked God for showing kindness to the faithful remnant who had not deserted him to mingle with the inhabitants of the land. Those who heard Ezra's prayer wept because of the sin of unfaithfulness

A plan was proposed to Ezra by a group of followers to make a covenant, before God, to

send away the women and children of foreign marriages and for the people to support Ezra. Ezra placed the people under oath to accept the proposal, and then he continued with his fast. Word was sent throughout the land for the people to appear in Jerusalem in three days. The penalty of expulsion was to be imposed on all who failed to appear at the appointed time. The people came to Jerusalem to resolve the issue. However, much time would be necessary to resolve each situation because of the rainy season: a time was set for each case to be presented. There was some opposition to Ezra's solution to restore faithfulness; yet, all involved pledged to put away their foreign wives and present a ram for a guilt offering.

The key verses, Ezra 10:10-11, present the problem of unfaithfulness and offer the solution "Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women, adding to Israel's guilt. Now make confession to the Lord, the God of your fathers, and do his will. Separate yourselves from the people around you and from your foreign wives.'

God's remedy, as presented in the above passage, consists of a four-step formula: 1. Confrontation, 2. Confession, 3. Obedience, 4. Separation. God had intended for the exiles to return to Judah and establish a wholesome environment of unadulterated worship. However, some of the people ignored the prohibition. Naturally, those who did were corrupted by heathen practices and the allurement of foreign women. God had prohibited mixing and mingling with the people of the land because impure worship of God resulted from the union with idolatrous worshipers. Seemingly, those involved with foreign women refused to confront squarely their problem. Today, people still refuse to acknowledge sin in their lives especially the sin of unfaithfulness. A confrontation with God, which results in repentance, is necessary to discover the solution.

A person's confession openly acknowledges a confrontation with God has occurred, and the individual has yielded to his will. Obedience to God's leadership is the motivating force of the faithful follower. Total separation from sinful pursuits and practices is achieved on a perma-

God issues a call to believers to be faithful. Let God's purpose be achieved in you and experience the joy of being a happy, profitable, and faithful servant of the Master. Obey his call

Allen of Jackson, is the wife of Judd Allen, pastor of Ogden Church, Bentonia.

David's census — taking count was a no count"

By Jerry Vardaman 2 Sam. 24:1-25

We know so little about the way a census was conducted in the Old Testament period. Recently new evidence came to light that indicates



Vardaman

that indeed, censuses could be and were, conducted in Old Testament times. We all know that in our time, for example, a census is conducted every 10 years. When America took its first census

in 1790, there was great opposition to it, based on what took place in ancient Israel when David took his census. The anger of the Lord was stirred up and David suf-

fered greatly for his mistake To understand the nature of David's mistake, we need to learn as much as we can about a census in the biblical period.

In the New Testament period, censuses were conducted, at first, at 17-year intervals (the one under which Jesus was born seems to have fallen in 12 B.C. and then repeated again in A.D. 6). After A.D. 6, census in the First Century A.D. started falling every 14 years apart, and continued this way until shortly after A.D. 300. What was the reason for this change? Likely, Augustus lost so many men under Varus (stepson of his colleague in power, Marcus V. Agrip-

BIBLE BOOK

pa) that after A.D. 9, when Varus was defeated in the battle of the Teutoburger Forest, he had to reach out and get more men, so he reduced the age for enlistment in the Roman army. This could be why a census came 17 years apart in the First Century B.C. — a boy had to be at least 17 to enlist. After A.D. 9, the minimum age seems to have been reduced to 14 years for a soldier to enlist in the Roman army. We are not as sure of every detail here, but something like this seems to have been the case. In any event, a census in the New Testament period was not just for assessing one's goods and property it was to assess the manpower available. The need to know a nation's strength militarily seems to have been at work in the case of David's census as well.

According to the account in the Scripture, the census of David started in Transjordan at Arorer (overlooks the Arnon Valley) and then it ran north to Kadesh (in the land of the Hittites, on the Orontes River) and then it came through Sidon and Tyre, etc. and ended at Beersheba. This required almost a year of work to carry out, and Joab, David's commander, was resentful of this great burden (24:3).

This writer is not sure how we are to under-

stand 1 Chron. 21:1 compared with 2 Sam. 24:1. The text in Chronicles tells us that "Satan" prompted David to number the people. Samuel indicates as it now reads that the Lord prompted this action. We should remember that the word "Satan" is also the word for an adversary. Is the meaning behind this problem, that an adversary - a political adversary - threatened David militarily, and he need to know his military capabilities? Did he then rely too much on the arm of flesh, instead of on the Lord? In any case, some attitude of David's was displeasing to the Lord, and judgment followed. We do not have a simple answer to this complicated

What was the real root of David's problem? We suggest that he was old and senile and forgot that his primary trust was to be in God. God gave David three choices of punishment, and David chose the shorter one and the one which God could be sought to shorten and to avert still greater problems. Here was the great lesson he learned — if was outside the will of God, he wanted to get back inside the will of God, and leave off his mistrust and blindness. Perhaps it is something like this that both accounts are trying to say to us as well. This is the thought we gain when we put both accounts together.

In short, David in his "no count" attitude, did not take full count. He did not reckon all of the unending mercies which God had showered upon him. He did not reckon God's power in his life when he went out against the Philistines, and when he was chased by Saul, considering himself like a quail in the wilderness, and only a "step away from death." In short, David was taking count with the wrong figures, and this is why God permitted him to learn a bitter

David purchased a plot of land from a person who came from India (Araunah), and later this site became the site of the temple which Solomon erected. One of the last acts in which we see David involved, therefore, is one of repentance and of rededication to the Lord for his service. Out of his miserable mistakes, even David could profit and not let them stand in the way of his need of cleansing and renewal for the Lord's purposes. In closing we should point out that according to the account in 1 Chronicles 21:25 David paid 600 gold shekels for the site where the temple was to be built, whereas in 2 Sam. 24:24 David paid 50 shekels of silver. Did the larger figure of Chronicles include buildings, equipment, etc., also? Again, here we have a real problem as far as the text is concerned. We see that the transmission of the biblical text is not always as clear, full, and pure as we would like.

Some scholars believe that the "place" (Heb-Magom) of 2 Chr. 22:25 included more than the "threshing floor" (Heb. Goren) of 2 Samuel

Vardaman is professor of archaeology, MSU.

Live as God's people — be strong in the Lord, battle evil character, absolute necessity of righteous liv-

By Benny Still Ephesians 6:10-18

Self-reliance makes us about as ready to do battle with the devil as a wet noodle would if we used it to ward off a hungry lion. If, however,



we prepare to do battle against evil by using the spiritual resources God provides for us, we can be victorious in any conquest. The purpose of this week's lesson is to help us commit ourselves to use the spiritual resources God has provided us in our battle against evil. In verses 10-11 Paul ad-

monishes us to be strong in the Lord by dressing for battle. Notice, he didn't say that we should pick and choose certain pieces above others, but that we

should be clad in the "whole armour" of God. It's important that we realize that some of our battle gear may be invisible to us and our enemy — but no less effective. We are to claim and use his strength, power, and might in our struggles. The word "Christian" without "Christ" leaves "i-a-n." The picture here is: "Without Christ I Am Nothing!" Christians cannot meet the forces of evil alone — they need God's help Christ has sufficient power for all God's help. Christ has sufficient power for all

LIFE AND WORK

Christians to win victories in their struggle with

The Christian's enemy Number One is the devil. The entire host of the demonic forces of evil is always at work in various insidious ways to cause the Christian to yield to the temptation of unbelief, to conformity with the world, and to sin (vv. 11-12). We are to make full use of all the armor of God so that no part of our body is left exposed, vulnerable, or unprotected. The armor of God is available to Christians, but it must be used if victory is to be secured (v. 13). The picture here could be any of us. What good is a plow to a farmer if it is never used? What good is a typewriter to a secretary if she never uses it? What good is a delivery truck to a delivery man if he never cranks it to deliver his goods? Likewise, unless we use the armor provided by God for our protection, we are going to suffer the consequences (v. 13). Let's take a look at God's spiritual equipment

for the Christian. It includes: (1) Truth - which manifests itself in faithfulness, inner integrity, sincerity, ethical and moral consistency with self and with the character and purpose of God (v. 14); (2) Righteousness - uprightness of

ing, personal righteousness (v. 14), the shield which guards the heart and other vital organs; (3) Preparation of the gospel of peace — readiness to preach the gospel, to make peace between God and persons, and between individuals, being involved in evangelistic and social action to bring well-being to the whole person, and a readiness to proclaim the gospel (v. 15); (4) Faith — dependence on God's promises with which to meet all weapons of the devil and to triumph over every temptation. Faith brings the Christian in touch with God and imposes God between the enemy and the Christian. Faith is not in ourselves or our own ability but is in God and his strength (v. 16). (5) Salvation — the whole process of the Christian experience received from God, an assurance and a confidence in personal salvation, the protection such consciousness gives, receiving all that his saving work offers (v. 17). (6) The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God — Christians are to use God's Word in serving him. It is a gift from God. Paul was speaking of God's spoken words; but, for us, the Bible under the guidance and illumination of the Holy Spirit becomes the revelation of the personal Word, Jesus Christ. The believer, then, is to use the Scripture as a mighty weapon in the conflict with evil (v. 17). I hasten to add that knowing what God's Word says and appropriating that

Word are two different things. The psalmist declared, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee" (Psalm 119:11).

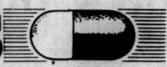
The protection of God would not be complete without adding (7) Continual Prayer and Watchfulness. We are to keep in touch with our Commander in Chief, God! We must encourage each other and pray for God's wisdom and strength in all our lives as we attempt to be strong in him (vs. 18).

I've heard it said that most powerful weapon we have against our adversary, the devil, is the truth. Use the truth that the devil has already been defeated by Jesus Christ. Recognize that because Jesus was victorious in his fight against Satan we, too, are victorious as we appropriate the same strength in facing our prob-lems that Jesus used in facing his. Let's be careful to let the truth of God's Word overshadow any lie, doubt, or temptation the devil may use to render us ineffective. Remember. the devil plays "dirty pool" and we need always to "be on guard." The only way to defeat him is to "be strong in the Lord."

I've enjoyed bringing you these Sunday School lesson comments during the past six months. May the Lord use them for his glory and the building up of his kingdom here on

Still is pastor, Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall.

capsules



RIFT DEEPENS BETWEEN MORRIS CERULLO AND PARTNERS IN HERITAGE USA PURCHASE: CHARLOTTE, N.C. (EP) — Evangelist Morris Cerullo, who was forced to resign as chairman of the board of directors of New Heritage USA, says two lawsuits filed against him are part of a plan to take over the Heritage USA property, formerly owned by the PTL Ministry. One lawsuit filed against Cerullo says the evangelist failed to inform his partners about the gold and platinum card sales. Although only Cerullo benefitted financially from the sale of the cards, the New Heritage USA corporation will have to bear the cost of honoring the promised discounts. The second lawsuit filed in April involves a fund-raising appeal that appeared in Cerullo's

THE ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI RIGHT TO LIFE CONVENTION will be Saturday, August 3, at the Ramada Inn Metro in Jackson. The main speaker will be Wanda Franz, Ph.D. president of the nation's largest pro-life organization. She is a professor at West Virginia University in child development. Franz expressed the hope that more pro-life people "become active in restoring the right to life to all vulnerable Americans.'

BILLY GRAHAM ANNOUNCES FIRST-EVER SOVIET SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM IN MOSCOW: MOSCOW, June 17 — Billy Graham, in response to an urgent and enthusiastic request from church leaders across the Soviet Union, today announced the Billy Graham Moscow School of Evangelism to be held in the Central Sports complex, July 8-13, the first-ever such event held in that country. Approximately 4,500-5,000 pastors and lay leaders from all denominations in the Soviet Union are expected to attend. The main sessions of the School will be held in Stadium Druzhba, an annex of Lenin Stadium and breakout seminars will be held in eight halls that are part of the complex. Participants will arrange their own transportation to Moscow, but the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) will be responsible for their meals and lodging at Moscow State University during their stay. "This is an historical event," said Gregori Ivanovich Komendant, chairman of the Baptist Union in Moscow and chairman of the school. "Never before has there been anything like it in the U.S.S.R." Friday, July 5, 1991, has been set aside as a day of fasting and of prayer for the school and will be observed by churches throughout the Soviet Union.

SEVILLE BAPTISTS GET READY FOR EXPO '92: SEVILLE, SPAIN -The Evangelical Baptist Church in Seville is preparing to make Christ known during the Universal Fair, EXPO '92. This will be "one of the greatest events that the world has yet to see," according to pastor Ruben Gomez. EXPO '92 is only the third universal exhibition in history, he explained. The last one took place over 20 years ago. The importance of this event, together with the church's desire to minister effectively to the 20 million national and international visitors who will visit Seville next year, have led the congregation of 125 members to think big. First, they sold their old building. Next, they procured land in one of the city's most strategic areas and are in the process of constructing the largest Protestant church building in Seville. Their ambitious plans during EXPO '92 include evangelistic campaigns, concerts, cultural tours, theater, choirs, and much more. The new building will house a coffee house and space for various types of ministry. Not far from Seville, the church already maintains a Drug Rehabilitation Centre with ten young men involved in the rehabilitation program. The church is seeking to enlist the help of the international Baptist family for its multi-faceted program. The possibilities for ministry during EXPO '92 are numerous. For more information, contact Pastor Ruben Gomez, Iglesia Evangelica Bautista de Seville, C/. Beatriz de Suabia, 57, E - 41005 Seville, Spain. (EBPS)

HOUSE VOTES FULL FUNDING FOR POSTAL APPROPRIATION: WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. House of Representatives has taken a step toward rejecting a Bush administration proposal to raise second- and thirdclass non-profit postal rates — the rates paid by many churches and Baptist publications. The House voted 349-48 to approve a \$20 billion Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill that allocates \$649.3 million for the non-profit mail subsidy for fiscal 1992. That is the amount the Postal Service says is needed to keep rates at their current level. Despite the House action, the postal appropriations measure still faces serious obstacles. "The \$649 million has to get through the Senate, which is a bigger problem," said Dan Doherty, executive director of the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers. A Senate appropriations panel is expected to take up the bill Tuesday, June 25. The subsidy, known as the "revenue foregone" appropriation, reimburses the Postal Service for the non-profit mailers' share of overhead expenses. Non-profit mail rates reflect only the cost attributable to handling that along of mail. reflect only the cost attributable to handling that class of mail.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS UNDER PRESSURE TO COMPLY WITH HIRING STANDARDS: PHILADELPHIA (ABP) — Churches and religious institutions are facing increasing pressure to comply with anti-discrimination laws, according to a church-state legal specialist. Oliver Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee, told a group of attorneys, law school professors, and ministers that the right of churches and religious institut discriminate in hiring frequently is pitted against a national public policy commitment to eradicate discrimination based on race, sex, national origin, age, and handicap. Thomas addressed the group during a session of the Bicentennial Conference on Religion in Public Life.

JUDGE PAUL PRESSLER RETIRES FROM TEXAS COURT OF AP-PEALS: HOUSTON (BP) — Judge Paul Pressler has decided not to seek re-election to the Texas 14th Court of Appeals next year. Acknowledged as one of the architects of the conservative resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention the past 12 years, Pressler said he wants to spend "more time with my family and follow other pursuits." At the Atlanta SBC meeting last week Pressler concluded seven years, two terms, on the SBC Executive Committee. He had served as vice chairman of the committee. A Republican, Pressler also serves on President Bush's Drug Advisory Council; is chairman of the board of KHCB Christian radio station; a deacon and Sunday School teacher at First Church of Houston; and is active in a number of other professional, educational, religious, and charitable organizations.

Southern Baptist youths are not crisis proof, says Richardson

By Terri Lackey

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Chris- who had contemplated suicide. tian youths are not crisis proof and Southern Baptist youths are just as susceptible to suicide as any American teen-ager, according to a Southern Baptist counselor.

The question we have to ask is, 'Are our kids crisis proof?' Is there something about Christianity or Southern Baptistness that makes them crisis proof?" Joe Richardson asked a group of youth leaders attending a seminar on suicide. Richardson was leading the conference during Summer Youth Celebration at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center, June 8-14.

Richardson, a counselor for the Sunday School Board and staff counselor for the youth conference, said, "Christianity does not exclude anyone from crises. In reality, Southern Baptist youth have the same amount of problems that other youth do. I know I have had a full day every day counseling with them about their problems."

Richardson said suicide is an epidemic among adolescents. "Apart from accidents it is the number two

cause of death to teen-agers."

About one-fifth of the nearly 50 youth leaders attending the seminar raised their hands when Richardson asked how many have had a young person from their group commit or at-tempt suicide. At the time of the midweek conference, Richardson said he not otherwise commit); or they could had already counseled over six youth have tried committing suicide before.

Richardson said adults sometimes make the mistake of stereotyping potential suicide victims as meek and

mild young people who are unpopular, unathletic, shy, and homely.

"You cannot stereotype those likely to commit suicide," said Richardson, who recounted a story about a friend of his in junior high school who killed himself.

"Lowell was popular; he made all A's; he was handsome; and he was captain of the football team. Looking back, I could never find one reason why he would want to do that."

Teens contemplating suicide sometimes display warning signs, Richardson said, and youth leaders should watch for those

They might begin to give away their worldly possessions; they might display sudden behavioral changes (going from outgoing to shy or good grades to bad grades); or they might give verbal clues.

"Research shows," Richardson said, "a high percentage of those who commit suicide have given verbal clues like, 'I can't take this anymore,' or 'You won't have me to kick around

Potential suicide victims might become isolated or withdrawn; they might be using drugs or alcohol (which lowers their inhibitions causing them to commit acts they might

"But if a kid commits suicide and you had no idea he was in pain you can't beat yourself up over it," Richardson told youth leaders. "Some give no signs.'

Richardson made suggestions to youth leaders on how they can help a youth who they believe is seriously

contemplating suicide.

"First of all, don't panic. Try not to get hysterical," he said. "You may have more time than you think. That person needs someone strong.

Richardson said if a teen tells someone he is contemplating suicide, take him seriously. "Don't call his bluff. You may challenge him that way and create a situation where he feels he has no alternative."

Never leave the teen-ager alone, Richardson said. And alert the

"Don't ever promise a youth secrecy. You can promise him confidentiality. But, let him know up front that you might have to tell someone."

Richardson told the youth leaders to refer the young person to a professional — "one that you have investigated and feel comfortable with."

Finally, Richardson told the leaders to pray for the young person. "They need your prayers.'

About 2,500 attending Summer Youth Celebration sponsored by the youth section of the SSB's discipleship training department.

Lackey writes for BSSB.

Children suffer from absentee fathers; others must fill gap, Sullivan says

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — In a special Father's Day commentary by the head of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, American adults were challenged to reach out to children suffering because of "absentee fathers."

"Given a father's importance, we must work to strengthen our families" wrote Louis Sullivan, secretary of

"At the same time, it is vitally important for caring adults to provide mentoring relationships" for children whose fathers are absent, he said.

Adults can help prepare such children for adulthood by providing "equal measures of love, discipline, challenge, and responsibility," Sullivan said.

The best thing adults can do for children, he said, is "to protect them while they are vulnerable and help them develop an armor of inner strength and strong values as they move beyond the safety nets of our families and communities.

"Every child needs to 'find out' that provide consistently genuine love, teach real values, develop good character, and that there are adults who are models of strong integrity," Sullivan said.

Some people can open their homes, while others may participate in and provide funding for programs that help young people, he said. The article was entitled "Father's

Day in an Era of Absentee Fathers.' Copies were sent to the department's 10 regional offices for distribution to media and other outlets, a spokesman for HHS said. Father's Day was June

Sullivan decried the widespread

abandonment and neglect of children by American fathers

'On this Father's Day, as our nation recognizes the positive influence and significance of fathers, it is sobering to acknowledge that too many American fathers are abdicating their responsibilities by not forming a family in the first place, or impairing their family through divorce, separation, neglect, 'busy-ness' or abandonment,'

"Literally millions of our nation's children — rich and poor alike — live with the anger, loneliness and insecurity produced by absentee fathers. And, we are 'reaping the whirlwind' in our cities from youth growing up with the hopelessness and violence engendered by those feel-

The problem is not exclusive to the oor, Sullivan said, but includes children in middle and upper economic classes who suffer from what he called a "poverty of parent-

"It is not acceptable when fathers provide consistently genuine love, or attitude," he said. "The father who acts more attached to his golf game or his TV program than to his children needs to rethink his priorities."

The resultant problem of single mothers also crosses racial and social boundaries, Sullivan said. In 1988, 63 percent of black babies were born to unwed mothers; 20 percent of other minority births were to unmarried mothers, and 18 percent of white babies were born to unwed mothers. Sullivan noted, however, whites accounted for 81 percent of the increase in births to unmarried teenagers in the last decade.

Other problems stemming from

"absentee fathers," Sullivan said,

One-third of such fathers do not make support payments;

 More than 50 percent of public spending through Aid to Families with Dependent Children, food stamps, and Medicaid is to families that began with a teen pregnancy;

Studies show 75 percent of the children of divorced parents are in contact with their fathers less than two days a month.

Strode is director, media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

